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WESTMINSTER

1893-1958

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A History of

WESTMINSTER

MASSACHUSETTS

1893 — 1958

Compiled by

THE WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Edited by Newton F. Tolman

RICHARD · R · SMITH
Peterborough · New Hampshire

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To
NELSON SPRAGUE GREELY
and his great-aunt
SARAH JANE WYMAN

A Westminster man who in childhood lost his parents; and the devoted aunt who took their place. She made her home his own. In later life, when with his wife he was free to search out a place to reside permanently, his choice was unhesitating—the town he had always loved.



D. O. Stably, 1951

NELSON SPRAGUE GREELY
With Crown and Pot of Incense
(Cambridge Council, Royal and Select Masters of Masons)



SARAH JANE WYMAN

FOREWORD

THIS BOOK was designed to be a record of the main events of Westminster, the character of the town, and the genealogy of its people, beginning in 1893—when the last previous history was published—to as near the present date as could practically be accomplished. While it was not possible to complete the work in time for the gala celebration of the town's 200th Anniversary in the summer of 1959, the occasion did stimulate an earnest effort toward publication at an early date thereafter.

The editor is especially grateful to the town history committee of the Historical Society who provided material and helped to organize the book, and to many other Westminster people who contributed to the task. Mrs. Nelson S. Greely, whose generosity made publication a reality, assisted with research.

Meetings of the history committee were held periodically over a two-year period to confer with the editor and to plan and assemble the contents of the book. It was decided initially not to repeat the information already contained in William S. Heywood's thorough and excellent *History of Westminister, Massachusetts*, published in 1893, but to make this work a continuation of the earlier history. While the Historical Society has a vast amount of material in its files, it was not possible to use all of it, and the committee has tried to condense the history of the town (1893-1958) into as readable a form as possible.

In addition to the Heywood history and the numerous papers and articles in the files of the Historical Society, other publications were helpful in the preparation of this volume. Especially valuable were the annual *Town Reports* and the *Valuation and Taxes* booklets. Among other informative sources were the *Personal Recollections* of General Nelson A. Miles; the account of Westminster's 150th Anniversary celebration, published in 1909; the earliest

known history of the town by Charles Hudson (1832); the Fitchburg *Sentinel*; the Gardner *News*; and various bulletins and pamphlets issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition to the present history, the Historical Society published an impressive pictorial record of the town (1759-1959) on the occasion of its 200th Anniversary.

The late Nelson S. Greely (named indirectly for his great-uncle, General Nelson A. Miles) was a keen student of town history and collected a wide variety of objects of historical interest and value. He built the handsome Greely home on Miles Hill in 1943, where he resided until his death in 1954. His great-aunt, Miss Sarah Jane Wyman, whose name shares in the dedication of this book, was a familiar figure in the affairs of Westminster until her death in 1935.

NEWTON F. TOLMAN
Editor

July 1961

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PART I

Narrative

❧ Chapter One

“THRIFT, COMPETENCE, COMFORT AND HAPPINESS”

WHEN YOU HEAR somebody in Westminster say, “I do not know of a better place to live,” it sounds convincing. For this is a small New England town with a certain distinction not found in many of its fellows. It is a town with not one outstanding fault.

Granted, every town has its minor faults. Yet in this case there is not the slum area, or the glue factory, or the bitter feuds between racial groups—or whatever it may be that plagues this town or that. Westminster is a pleasant town, a well-kept town, a place which seems always to have held civic pride ahead of personal gain.

Even as far back as 1893—over sixty-six years ago—an amazingly complete town history was published. This contains a very accurate “biologic-genealogical register” and begins at the date of the original 1728 grant of the then-named “Narragansett No. 2.” And so we are chiefly concerned here, with Westminster *after* 1893. Almost anything of importance or interest happening earlier can be found in the previous 963-page *History of Westminster, Massachusetts* by William Sweetzer Heywood, or in an earlier history by Charles Hudson, published in 1832.

Heywood wrote of the town as he knew it in the 1890's: “It has an estimated area of . . . thirty-six square miles. Its population numbers not far from sixteen hundred persons, about three-fifths of whom are distributed at large over its territory, being connected with the agricultural interests of the place.” Of the central part of the town known as “the Center,” he said: “Every thing there is kept in excellent order and repair, and the whole presents a neat and attractive appearance. Few country villages are more indicative of thrift, competence, comfort, domestic and social content, and happiness.”

If the historian could inspect the township today, he would see great changes, not in the size and character of the Center, but in its outlying sections. Agriculture is now confined to a few farms, largely specialized. Vast areas of pasture, plainly visible in the old photos, are now solid forest. And so the casual motorist, driving across the rolling hills from one town boundary to another, gets the impression of a countryside largely wooded and with widely scattered houses.

Even the newly built residential sections, with perhaps fifteen houses in more or less of a row along the side of a highway, face out across large expanses of undeveloped country. There is no feeling of crowding here.

There was little change in population from 1893 until the vast upheaval caused by World War II. Twenty-four babies were born in 1895; twenty-six babies were born in 1945. But a decade later, in 1955, sixty-one births were recorded; and by 1958 the figure had jumped to sixty-seven. One gets the impression that the costly and rapidly expanding program of school building is largely a result of the votes of young, new families. Time after time, new schools or school additions have been voted by the narrowest of margins. There is here, as elsewhere in the nation, a sharp struggle between the forces representing the town as it was, and those anticipating an accelerated growth.

Even the dog population reflects Westminster's recent residential expansion. The *Town Report* of 1905 shows an item of \$381 received from licenses on 147 dogs. In 1945 there were some 278 dogs. And in 1955, canine population—if we have added correctly from several pages in the *Report*—had reached 326. Income to the town was \$1231, minus fees to the Town Clerk of \$99.60. And no less than fourteen kennel licenses were also issued. It may be guessed that in many cases the dog is a symbol of the kind of life the newcomer expects to find in Westminster: not "Suburbia" but country living.

All the natural features that combine to make such a life attractive are set forth in great detail in the Heywood history, altitude, climate, lakes, hills, and the flora and fauna of the region. A delightful section on fish, reptiles and insects might well be compared with Thoreau.

Mr. Heywood, it appears, had a very low opinion of the black bass. He recounted how Meetinghouse Pond was once stocked with bass, at an expense of “several hundred dollars.” These fish, he claimed, not only harassed and chased the pickerel and perch, but “. . . are a poor substitute . . . being, except for a brief portion of the year, not simply unpalatable, as an article of food, but offensive to both smell and taste. . . .” He concluded with the admonition, “It is wise, sometimes, to ‘let well enough alone,’ and not be in too great haste to adopt the theories of half-fledged novices and blatherskites.”

In recent years Westminster fishermen have had rather better luck with their re-stocking programs. And at present two fish-and-game clubs offer their members good sport every season.

Most Massachusetts towns have been variously affected and influenced by the waves of immigrants pouring into the United States early in the century. Probably due more to the character of its land than to any other factor, Westminster has attracted chiefly northern Europeans. Many of these newer settlers had a long background of association with the soil and with country living. The abandoned farmland of Westminster, together with the proximity of employment in nearby large towns, drew them in numbers far exceeding any other group.

It may be guessed that the highly democratic form of town government also appealed to these people. Their countries in Europe were early pioneers in self-government by democratic systems.

In the *Town Report* of 1895 almost all the names which appear are of English-sounding derivation—Hurd, Merriam, Waterhouse, Whitney, Smith, Giles, Towle, Fenno, Gilson, Bolton, Simonds, Miller, and so on. The *Report* of 1945 finds such names as Waltonen, Luoma, Poikonen, and Wintturi among town officers and jurors. On the check list, at first glance, about half the names suggest Scandinavian origin. There are also many names of French and Italian origin, with a scattering of other nationalities, and the English derivations make a small minority.

Of this minority, however, there are many still to be seen on the mailboxes of the large old residences, both in “the Center” and elsewhere. And a surprising number of these gracious houses are still occupied by descendants of their builders or early occupants.

Aside from the new school buildings, which are set a little aside from the hub of the town, the motels are the most prominent, strictly modern addition to the scene. The two old white frame buildings that were the hotels of long ago have both burned.

❧ Chapter Two

TOWN GOVERNMENT

THE STORY OF WESTMINSTER'S government from 1893 to the present, in minute detail, is readily available. One has only to ask the town librarian for a set of the *Town Report* and an accompanying set of *Valuations & Taxes*. Therefore it seems unnecessary to burden this history with much of the material—year by year—already so well documented and preserved in these annual reports. It is not always that a small town is so fortunate, either in the clear and systematic printing of its reports, or in the careful filing of them in duplicate.

It is interesting to compare town economics of 1894 with the present. The *Town Report* of 1894 shows \$11,089 for the total amount raised; \$2500 for highways and \$4000 for schools are the largest items.

Under "Total taxes to be raised" in the 1958 *Report* was the figure \$353,742.38. Total receipts for the year were \$941,393—in other words, town officers now handle close to a million dollars annually. Small wonder it was voted in 1957 to appoint a new town officer to be called "Town Co-ordinator," or that the enlarged and well-equipped rooms for town business, in the Town Hall ground-floor, are kept open daily.

The complexity of modern government has increased the size of *Town Reports* from their former sixty or so pages to 165, but the basic structure of town management is unchanged. The annual town meeting is still a forum where all business is decided by the direct vote of the people. Three Selectmen are still the governing officials, though lately their function has been augmented by that of a five-member Planning Board, the Co-ordinator (first incumbent, Raymond Stockwell) and the Town Accountant.

The duties of the offices of Chief of Police and Constable have

become largely overlapping, and for several years one man has held both offices.

Salaries of most town officers are still somewhat nominal, totaling \$10,125 in 1958. Of this the tax collector received \$2000 and the selectmen \$325 to \$350 each. In that year, salaries and expenses brought the total cost of town government to \$19,965.

As will be noted later in this history, a good many special town meetings have been held in recent years. There were three in 1958 alone. The pattern is much like that of many other small New England towns, adjusting to the rapidly changing conditions of the mid-twentieth century. These special meetings in Westminster—and elsewhere—have arisen over such issues as attempts to control new building by various regulations; enormously expensive new school expansion; demands for increased municipal services—a battle between the old established landowners, who pay a disproportionate amount of taxes, and the newer small-home owners geared to a world of extended credit and free spending. The latter usually win out.

The *Town Report* of 1958 shows the most active balloting of the meeting to have taken place for the office of School Committee, with one of the candidates receiving 375 votes out of 792 cast. It had been voted in 1957 to enlarge the School Committee from three members to five.

Two items taken at random from the 1958 report give further indication of the increased complexity of town affairs. The section on financial recommendations for the ensuing year is signed not only by the Selectmen, as in the past, but by a five-member Advisory Committee. Another indicative item is the appropriation for clerical work and accounting: in 1958 the town appropriated \$4000 for this service. In the 1930's only \$400 was required.

Town government had a hand in initiating the elaborate 200th Anniversary celebration of 1959. A committee report in the 1958 *Report* begins: "The 200th Anniversary Committee, upon their appointment by the Board of Selectmen (Daniel J. O'Hearn, Preston A. Baker and Lennard C. Salo) in April 1958, elected Frank Onischuk, Chairman; Mrs. Toivo Wilen, Treasurer; Mrs. Eino A. Haynes, Clerk. Other members include Walter Vieweg and Eino Salo . . ." The town voted \$250 for committee expenses.

By the great majority of the voters, Westminster continues in

its long tradition of keen and active interest in town affairs of all kinds. Its basic form of government—annual town meeting to elect all town officers save those with unexpired terms, and to act on all articles posted in the town warrant—remains unchanged. It is direct government by the people, as the New England town meeting system is so often described.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Before the advent of modern motorized equipment and a new water system, there were disastrous fires in Westminster from time to time. This was not, however, due to any lack of zeal on the part of the town fire department. The Firemen were severely handicapped by several factors. While the town contained several lakes, the central village was at a high elevation and far removed from these water sources. Distances from larger towns were too great for help to arrive promptly enough to stop a fire which had got a good start.

The Fire Department has been a town-governed body in Westminster since 1825, under a Board of Engineers who are appointed by the selectmen. This board's number has varied from three to six members.

In 1893 there were two fire companies—the second being in South Westminster. But as this village had become much smaller after the burning of Merriam's chair factory in 1897, its fire equipment was removed to Whitmanville in 1905. In 1927 it was voted to present this equipment to the Whitmanville Firemen's Association "for as long as it is kept in repair."

In 1919 the horse-drawn equipment was superseded by a new Ford engine. Also in that year, the old pumper, the "General Miles," was sold to Quincy, Massachusetts. Later when townspeople became interested once again in firemen's musters and antique apparatus, an attempt was made to buy it back, but when finally located it was not for sale.

In 1956 the one remaining ancient engine, the "Always Ready," was restored and placed permanently in the new firehouse, where it is on view as an interesting relic of the past.

Other heavier motorized equipment was added over the years

as the town continued to grow. An electric alarm system was ordered in 1922 to supplant the old custom of ringing the church bell. In 1940 this was replaced by a more modern one installed in the Legion Hall belfry on Main Street, then adjoining the fire station.

In 1936 J. J. MacConlogue became Chief, and except for leave of absence during World War II, he has continued to hold the office.

The new station was completed in 1956 at a cost of some fifty thousand dollars. It is well situated for access, just off the main street in the center of town. In 1958 the town raised thirty-five hundred dollars to finish the second floor for a meeting hall and for general purposes of the department.

It is interesting to compare the estimate of funds needed by the Fire Department for the year 1893 with the figures listed for running expenses in the 1958 *Town Report*:

Estimate made in 1892

Firemen	\$375
Engineers	35
Janitor	7
New tower built	75
Misc.	100

From Town Report, 1958

Salaries	\$260
Wages	688
Ins.	298
Tel. & Elec.	379
Gas, oil, heat	736
Equipment	420
Apparatus	1,358
Repairs, labor, etc.	172
Police radio lab.	9
Water	35
Other	15

Present inventory includes four pieces of fire apparatus, and auxiliary equipment.

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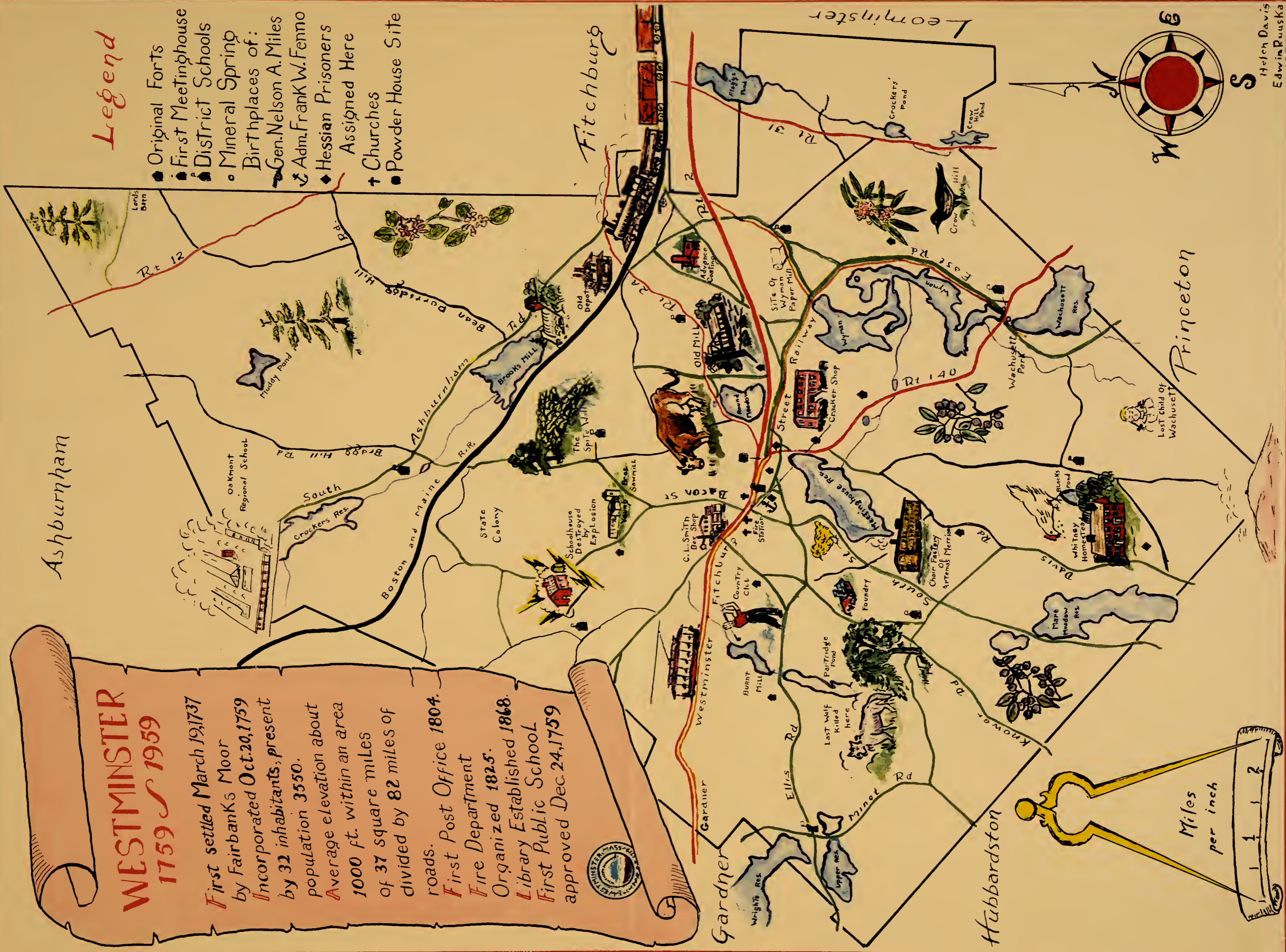
WESTMINSTER 1759 ~ 1959

First settled March 19, 1737
 by Fairbanks Moor
 Incorporated Oct. 20, 1759
 by 32 inhabitants, present
 population 3550.
 Average elevation about
 1000 ft. within an area
 of 37 square miles
 divided by 82 miles of
 roads.
 First Post Office 1804.
 Fire Department
 Organized 1825.
 Library Established 1868.
 First Public School
 approved Dec. 24, 1759



Legend

- Original Forts
- ⊙ First Meetinghouse
- ⊙ District Schools
- Mineral Spring
- Birthplaces of:
 Gen. Nelson A. Miles
 Adm. Frank W. Fenno
- ◆ Hessian Prisoners
- Assigned Here
- † Churches
- Powder House Site



❧ Chapter Three

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY has in its files enough detailed material to fill several volumes, but space requires us to be quite selective here. From a monograph issued by the Massachusetts Department of Commerce in 1957 we take the following:

LOCATION: (Worcester County) Northcentral Massachusetts, bordered on the north by Ashburnham, east by Fitchburg and Leominster, south by Princeton and Hubbardston, west by Gardner . . . about 52 miles from Boston, 6 miles from Fitchburg, 24 miles from Worcester . . .

GOVERNMENT: by Town Meeting.

ESTABLISHED: March 1737.

INCORPORATED: Oct. 20, 1759.

3rd Congressional District, 7th Councillor District, 3rd Worcester Senatorial District, 2nd Worcester Representative District. (Politics to date, predominantly Republican.)

POPULATION: (1955) 3,505.

AREA: 35.64 sq. miles.

ELEVATION at Town Hall: 1,064 ft.

TOPOGRAPHY: Hilly with well-defined valleys and sharp inclines in northern, eastern and southern sectors . . . western sector much more even. Altitudes vary between 700 feet above sea level in the north and 800 to 1560 in the south. . . .

Population remained fairly static from 1893 to 1920, declining slightly at times. From 1920 to 1930 there was an increase—1343 to 1925, or a gain of 582 persons in one decade. A population jump began in earnest in 1945, and in the next decade the figure shot up from 2153 to 3505.

Some four hundred and sixty new-building permits were issued in that decade, and it may be assumed most of them were used. As we write this, the trend continues unabated.

Before the consequences of World War II and the postwar boom could be foreseen, a group of public-spirited citizens were making a study of Westminster. In 1941 the group, called the Country Life Committee, and sponsored by the Worcester County Extension Service, published a twenty-five-page report setting forth in careful detail such data as might be helpful in promoting Westminster development. Its members were:

Mrs. Ernestine Adams	Mrs. Anna Klemetti
Mrs. E. J. Abar	Dugal Laughton, <i>Chairman</i>
Porter W. Dawley	Otto Leino
Judson R. Foster	Mrs. Linnea Poikonen
Mrs. John Friberg	Reverend Scott C. Siegle
Reverend Lucy Milton Giles	Eino W. Winter
William S. Johnson	

The study group reported on the town's physical, economic, social and ethnic potential. The crucial factor of an adequate municipal water system was stressed, and the need for more youth guidance and recreational facilities. The work of this committee was like the digging of a small canal, into which was suddenly poured the contents of a river in full flood. The postwar population boom made the water system inevitable, together with a tremendous increase in school building and all the other appurtenances of sudden growth. The tax rate in 1958 went to \$94 per \$1000, from the 1945 rate of only \$33.

The political structure of the town became complex and, by past standards, more partisan. As always in towns affected by much new building, the older residents tried to follow a conservative course, while steadily more and more overwhelmed by newcomers of comparatively free-spending tendencies. In the eyes of the old and established residents, sudden expansion always brings a certain tragic element. The tranquil aspect of large homesteads and farms gives way to the bulldozer and the power saw and ready-mixed concrete.

For the most part, the new homes of Westminster are not the cheap, crowded little boxes found nearer the large cities; nor are they as pretentious as those of the most exclusive country developments. They may be said to occupy a sort of middle ground between these extremes. In about the same category are the numerous summer cottages being built on the town's available lake shore.

Certain aspects of town history are not different, except in the most minor details, from those of all other similar-sized towns in the State. The Historical Society's files include the growth of the modern telephone system, the general distribution of electric power, conversion of some forty to fifty miles of gravel roads to asphalt-surface; in short, all those changes which in the same period occurred generally elsewhere.

Population growth is quite another matter. In this no two towns are alike. The rate of increase may be similar, but the character and type of new residents, the economic and social consequences, differ widely even in adjoining towns. Each town meets the problem—or perhaps tries to escape it—in its own way.

To future students of history, perhaps the most valuable contribution this book can make is the following brief economic analysis of the past decade. Certainly this decade has seen by far the greatest changes in Westminster since its founding.

In 1948 there were 645 homes assessed. Ten years later the figure has jumped to 1032—an increase of 387 new houses. Locally owned motor vehicles, mostly passenger cars, increased from 1120 to 1922.

It is obvious from the 1941 report of the Country Life Committee that the study-group hoped expansion and growth would be of economic benefit to the town. But in actual fact the residential expansion brought with it an almost crushing burden to the established townspeople. As we have seen, the tax rate jumped from \$33 to \$94 per thousand; valuations, however, increased by about one-and-a-half million above the 1948 figure of \$2,222,036.

	1895	1925	1958
BIRTHS—	24	29	67
DEATHS—	30	19	24
MARRIAGES—	18	21	34

It is our purpose here merely to set down historical facts, not to explain them; nor is it intended to suggest a future course of action. Surely the trends and figures we have quoted in this chapter should be of vital concern to every Westminster voter, and to those who shape the future economic policies of the town.

Further facts and figures are to be found in "Important Dates" (*Chapter Eighteen*) and in the tables in the Appendix.

❧ *Chapter Four*

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

WESTMINSTER SEEMS to have come through the dark ages of architecture unscathed—especially through the period around the turn of the century when most towns of this size were marred by at least one or two buildings—whose ungainly proportions still exist to conflict with all others in the area.

TOWN HALL

The white-clapboard Town Hall of Westminster, with its red-brick basement and modest entrance, might be taken for just another large comfortable residence by the passing motorist. Actually it is of ample proportions for the needs of the town.

Before 1893 the building was one story less lofty than today, having been built along the general lines known as story-and-a-half in 1839. But in 1893 more room was needed, and it was decided with true Yankee thrift to raise the structure one whole floor. Evidently Westminster workmen were practical engineers of no mean ability; one would never guess that the pleasing dimensions of the building as it is today were not its original form.

The added ground floor was used for a dining hall and small kitchen, with a room near the door to house the books of the town library.

The hall proper was on the second floor, where it still remains, with a stage and anterooms. At the head of the stairs there was also a Selectmen's Office, open at that time the first Saturday afternoon of each month.

On the third floor was the meeting place of Joseph P. Rice Post 69, G.A.R., with portraits of many members decorating the walls.

Iron posts had been installed to support the ceiling and for some years various groups were allowed to use the room. Finally it was declared unsafe, and the older residents may have concurred because of the very steep stairs.

In 1894 a vault was added for safekeeping of valuable papers, augmenting the two town safes used earlier. Eight copies of the *History of Westminster, 1728-1893*, by William S. Heywood, are here stored for posterity. Presumably, copies of this sequel will also be placed there.

In 1914 a fire escape was built, costing \$176.98. Modern heating replaced wood-burning furnaces in 1948. A fire broke out in 1950 and caused some four thousand dollars' damage before it could be extinguished. Afterward the hall was refinished and redecorated.

By 1958 the machinery of town business had become far more complex than in the past. It was necessary to employ office workers on a more-or-less daily basis, and the town offices on the ground floor had to be enlarged and modernized.

THE FIRE STATION

When the Heywood *History* was printed in 1893 it referred to two fire-station buildings, one in South Westminster and a larger one in the Center. Both were said to be very adequate for that period. After the South Westminster building was removed to Whitmanville, Center Westminster station (built in 1850) continued to serve as fire headquarters until 1956. Various improvements were made from time to time, and an upstairs hall was used for a meeting place.

On January 14, 1954, at a special Town Meeting, three hundred and fifty dollars was raised to obtain plans for a new building to be erected on South Street. Nothing more was done that year, however, due to public pressure aimed at a new water system and school additions.

At the annual meeting of March 5, 1955, fifty thousand dollars was voted for the new building. Construction was begun under supervision of Selectmen Lennard C. Salo, Walter W. Wintturi, Preston A. Baker; and town Fire Engineers Frederick J. Slade, John

J. MacConlogue, Burt P. Cummings. It was designed by Arnold Towle, and the builder was Victor Arcangeli.

In service since 1956, the handsome two-story Colonial building has three main truck-entrances. The ground floor is finished on the outside with brick, and the upper part is of white clapboarding with pleasing small-paned windows set off by shutters. The gable roof is topped with an appropriate counterpart of a traditional bell-cupola which contains a high-volume siren.

During 1958 some five thousand dollars was spent on finishing the second story to provide for a Chief's office, a recreation room, and rooms for Civil Defense, Planning Board, and Police Department. Several men under the direction of Frederick J. Slade and Raymond Caron supplied the labor for this fine public-service project, and the town has every reason to be proud of the result.

It was found that the old building on Main Street, if disposed of by the town, would revert to the heirs of the original owners. The selectmen were finally authorized to take possession by eminent domain, since the heirs were too numerous and scattered to be reached. The building has since been used for extra storage space.

Department activities and equipment have been covered in Chapter Two.

LIBRARY

The Forbush Memorial Building, erected in 1901, the brick-and-stone home of the Westminster Library and Museum, on Main Street, is described in Chapter Seven.

WATER DEPARTMENT

A small but handsome brick building necessitated by the new water system in 1955 is the only town building of consequence not located in the Center. About three quarters of a mile distant on the shore of Meetinghouse Pond, this building houses pumps and the chlorinating system.

On the outside wall a bronze plaque reads as follows:

HISTORY OF WESTMINSTER
WESTMINSTER WATER DEPT.

WATER COMMISSIONERS
ERIC WESTERFORS, CHAIRMAN
DOUGLAS NEWCOMBE RALPH OWEN

WATER SUPERINTENDENT
WILFRED GOODRIDGE

SELECTMEN
WALTER WINTTURI PRESTON BAKER
LENARTH SALO

WHITMAN & HOWARD ENGINEERS

1955

TOWN GARAGES

In 1923 highway maintenance had become such an important town service it was decided to build the first so-called Town Garage. There is a remarkable photo captioned "Highway Department of 1890" in the 200th anniversary booklet published by the Westminster Historical Society. The nine-man crew with their hand tools and the six-horse team hitched to a primitive grader remind us of the enormous change in road operations taking place during a quarter century. In this short period between horse-troughs and gas-stations, it became necessary for the State to take over the town-to-town arteries, just as a little later many state-to-state arteries would be taken over by the Federal government.

The 1923 building on Main Street grew out of a relatively new development—purchase by the town of its own motorized equipment. The building was put up by Jack Arcangeli. With the aid of his wife and family, he made the cement blocks in his own backyard. It is a four-stall garage and is said to have cost under two thousand dollars.

New road construction, increased traffic and winter highway maintenance soon demanded still more storage space for town equipment. In 1936 the first unit of a long-range building program was completed on South Street. This four-stall garage was built by

town employees, assisted by A. Charles Hicks, for about fifteen hundred dollars.

In 1945 more room was again required. Five stalls were added, together with a boiler room, tool room and office. Work was done by town employees assisted by Charles Waarama and Oscar Lehtonen; cost, ninety-five hundred dollars.

In 1949 four more stalls, added at a cost of thirty-four hundred dollars, brought the handsome and well-lighted building to its present size, including sufficient space for a Water Superintendent's office added later. The old hearse-house situated near Woodside Cemetery was moved nearby for storage of bulk materials.

Now these garage buildings are said to hold their own against those of any comparable town in the State. Much of the credit is given Highway Superintendent Wilfred H. Goodridge and a twelve-man staff of exceptional public spirit.

POST OFFICE

The Westminster Post Office, as in most towns of this size, has never been large enough to warrant a special building. However, the "Brick Store," which has housed the office since 1899, provides an ideal situation. (Before 1899 the post office had been moved many times, usually from one store to another.) It was made a second class post office in 1954 and today, along with the rest of the brick structure, has been modernized. The present Postmaster, appointed in 1949, is Mrs. Altha M. Shay, assisted by Mrs. Vivian A. Cross. The town is served by Mail Carriers William R. Hickey and Walter W. Wintturi.

Past Postmasters

Carlos E. Barron	1893
Sydney Harrocks	1915
Thaddeus B. Fenno	1922
Eino A. Hintala (acting)	1937
William M. Shay	1939

CHURCHES

LOOKING OUT across the rolling, wooded countryside from the top of Mount Wachusett, here and there a church spire seems to rise from unbroken forest. This effect is explained, when driving through the village of Westminster, by the avenues of ancient trees bordering the streets. Many of these are giant, spreading sugar-maples which were already old a century ago.

The church buildings of Westminster reflect the sound taste of the townspeople, together with a strong feeling for tradition. A stranger would never guess that of the three active churches, two were recently built. The newest is the Catholic church, finished in 1952; and in 1942 the present Congregational edifice took the place of a fine old building lost by fire. The Baptist church dates back to 1863, with characteristic clock-tower and spire. And an earlier spired building, once a Universalist church, is now home of the American Legionnaires of Westminster.

These handsome, substantial buildings are ample proof that the spiritual and cultural needs of the town are well accommodated.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The earliest records of the Baptists in Westminster go back to 1806, when a few townspeople began attending services in Princeton. At the same time weekly prayer meetings were held in the Lake Schoolhouse at the corner of East and Worcester Roads. The present Baptist church was built in 1863, replacing an earlier brick building which stood near Meetinghouse Pond at the foot of Academy Hill.

When the Reverend William Gussman accepted a call here in 1893, he succeeded the active nine-year tenure of the Reverend



MAIN STREET, WESTMINSTER

Lyman Partridge. Under the Reverend Gussman the stained glass memorial windows were given by several families; he resigned in 1899 and was succeeded the following year by the Reverend A. S. Buzzell.

In June 1902 Edward J. Abar was called from Crozier Seminary; during his five-year ministry, an Estey organ was installed. The Reverend Abar later returned to live in Westminster after many years. The Reverend George Mason, a returned missionary from China, was pastor from 1907 to 1909, when Dr. and Mrs. William McAllester came here.

During Dr. McAllester's ministry, a former member, General Nelson A. Miles, in an address on the 88th Anniversary in 1918, presented the church with a new parsonage—the former Daniel C. Miles house on the opposite side of Main Street. After eleven years, Dr. McAllester retired, having served the longest ministry in the church's history; but he continued to make his home on Pleasant Street.

The Reverend Drew T. Wyman was pastor from 1921 until 1927. During this period the Miles House was made into two apartments, the Reverend Wyman using one as a parsonage. The old parsonage at the corner of Bacon and Pleasant Streets was sold. On retiring, the Reverend Wyman bought a house on Bacon Street and lived in Westminster until his death in 1943.

When J. Morris Forbes, a student at Newton Seminary, was called in 1927, a joint reception was held to welcome him and to confer the honor of Pastor Emeritus on the Reverend Wyman. Mr. Forbes took leave of absence in 1928, and his post was filled by the Reverend Elmer G. Hall. Both men later became foreign missionaries.

In April 1928 the church was formally incorporated.

The Reverend George N. Pike, a young graduate of Gordon College, began his eight-year ministry in 1929 and was active in the church's 100th Anniversary celebration the following year. He went to Adams in 1937, and was succeeded in 1938 by Reverend Clarence N. Fogg of Claremont, New Hampshire, who remained until 1943. During this period the Cheerio Club was organized.

Hugh McLean supplied the pulpit for a brief period thereafter, and in 1944 Charles Hodgman, Jr., came here from Gordon Divinity School.

The Reverend Donald G. Patterson was engaged in 1949, serving as minister for eight years until his resignation in 1957. During this period, on May 11, 1952, the Reverend Edward J. Abar, pastor of the Baptist church from 1902 to 1907, preached a sermon exactly fifty years after he first stood before the congregation. In the evening a reception was held in his honor. On April 30, 1955, the church held special services in commemoration of its 125th year.

The Reverend George F. Moore, a graduate of Gordon Divinity School, accepted a call in June 1958, and with his wife and family came to Westminster.

For some time in recent years it had been evident that more space was needed for Sunday School and other activities. In 1956 the church acquired one building lot, another was given by Mrs. Edward R. Miller, and Victor Arcangeli gave land on Church Street. The church also received a large gift of money in memory of Nelson Sprague Greely and his aunt, Miss Sarah Jane Wyman, which made possible additional classroom space and the building of a new hall. The Wyman-Greely Auditorium was dedicated on October 19, 1958, and the Reverend Patterson returned to preach the dedication sermon.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

In 1893 the Catholics of Westminster had for some time been attending the Sacred Heart Church in West Fitchburg. Their number had not been great enough to undertake a local church of their own. On June 26, 1880, an announcement had appeared in the *Gardner News*: "Catholic services will be held in the (Westminster) Town Hall next Sabbath . . ." This arrangement was short-lived; it was fifty years later, in 1930, that Mass was once again celebrated in the Town Hall.

This time, under the sanction of Bishop Thomas M. O'Leary, Springfield Diocese, masses continued until 1951. At that time Bishop John J. Wright of Worcester consulted with Father James Cavanaugh of Sacred Heart Church, and the parish of St. Edward the Confessor was the outcome. The Reverend Thomas J. Connelan was appointed priest, first of the new church. A Women's Guild and Men's Club were formed. A main objective was to raise

funds toward a new church building. The Arcangeli family gave land on Church Street, and the parish purchased the adjoining lot. T. Cranston Albro III of Greenfield, architect, and the Worcester firm of Granger Contracting Company were engaged.

On February 3, 1953, Bishop Wright and Father Connellan plunged a gold-handled spade of silver into the ground to mark the start of construction. Donald Baker, altar boy, turned the first dirt. Bishop Wright spoke to some four hundred people gathered at the ceremony, solemnizing the historic moment.

In October the cornerstone was laid by Bishop Wright and the first Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given in St. Edward Parish. Also at this time the chapel and rectory were dedicated.

Saint Edward the Confessor Church—named for the re-builder of Westminster Abbey—is a red-brick Colonial building with a white-pillared front portico, and connects with a wooden chapel and rectory. The traditional architecture is in accord with the finest old buildings of the town.

The interior was finished in time for a midnight mass—Christmas, 1952—with the Reverend Connellan officiating.

The church was dedicated in 1953 when Bishop Wright celebrated pontifical mass attended by some three hundred members and friends of the parish.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Heywood wrote of the First Congregational Church: "In the almost one hundred and fifty years of its existence . . . it has shaped lives to high ideals by the power of its services . . ." Today its members feel that it has been even more active in the sixty-some years since.

The Reverend William Taylor came to this church in 1891, following the Reverend Charles Palmer, who had held the post since 1883. In 1894 the Reverend Taylor was succeeded by the Reverend Edward Winslow. After a year the Reverend Winslow took over superintendency of the Home for Little Wanderers in Boston. He kept the Westminster church in touch with his work there, and it still contributes to the Home.

1895 marked the start of a decade under the Reverend John W.

Lees' pastorate. In 1904 a new parsonage was built on Worcester Road, and the wood-carving skill of the pastor give it a unique character.

The Reverend A. Herbert Armes came to the parish from Carlisle in 1906. Evangelistic services were held then together with the Baptist church.

In 1910, the Reverend Armes was followed by the Reverend Raymond Fowles from North Attleboro. The 75th Anniversary of the church building was observed in 1912, and formal incorporation took place the year after.

The Reverend Charles N. Gleason of Henniker, New Hampshire, became pastor in 1914; during his tenure a free pew system was adopted. In 1922 the Reverend Gleason resigned because of poor health, continuing residence in town until 1924. The Reverend Winfield S. Randall came to Westminster from North Deering, Maine, in 1922. Residents of Finnish ancestry were invited to hold their services in the church and did so for a short period on Sunday evenings.

The Reverend Scott C. Siegle of Hanson began his ministry here in 1928 and was honored in 1930 at the first installation service in many years. During this period Universalist Church members accepted an invitation to worship in the Congregational Church, since their own society had been discontinued here.

On Sunday afternoon, November 10, 1940, a sudden fire totally destroyed the venerable building. The congregation began at once the task of raising a new building, and this was completed in March 1942. The Reverend Siegle preached the dedication service on the morning of March 22 to a capacity gathering of worshippers. In the afternoon a service was held by the Reverend Robert Coe of Brookline, at which neighboring churches were represented by delegates.

The American Legion post building, the former Universalist church, and the Baptist church building had both been made available for the use of the congregation while its church was being rebuilt.

The Reverend Marion Phelps of Erving succeeded the Reverend Siegle in 1942. The Ladies' Benevolent Society, dating back to 1836, and the What-So-Ever Guild (1922) now merged to form

the Friendly Alliance. A service flag and honor roll with more than fifty names of those who had served in both World Wars was dedicated in 1943.

John H. Bembow was engaged to preach in 1951, and was ordained at a special service in 1952. It was the first such service held by this church since the ordination of Cyrus Mann in 1815. In May 1956 the church and community were saddened by the sudden death of the Reverend Bembow after an illness of only a week.

The Reverend John W. Morrow came from the Pilgrim Congregational Church of Leominster and began his pastorate here January 1, 1957. Several times during the years an addition to the church for the use of youth and Sunday School activities had been considered. In 1958, as a temporary solution, a house was purchased—on Pleasant Street, at the rear of the church property—with funds realized by the sale of a house willed to the church by Miss Minnie Dexter, its treasurer for thirty-seven years. The Pleasant Street house is equipped with Sunday School rooms, a pastor's study and other features.

The Congregational Church held a Loyalty Dinner in May 1958, at which time approximately forty thousand dollars was pledged for a building fund. Construction began immediately, and the new building, called Pilgrim Hall, was dedicated October 18, 1959.

THE UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

The Westminster Universalist Society had reached a membership strength in the 1840's sufficient to maintain a separate church with all its appurtenances. The fact that the Universalists were then something of a liberal protest group drawn from the still rigorous Calvinism of other churches added temporarily to their strength. Later, when other sects became liberalized, there was no longer the same inducement for people to break away. In New England the Universalist church became more or less static before attaining any great size, and never acquired much wealth.

It is no reflection on the piety of Westminster Universalists to state that before 1900 they were already facing a struggle. At times they had been without a preacher. Historian Heywood had written that the then incumbent, Mr. Felt, was one of several pastors

from the Gardner church who had undertaken to supply the Westminster pulpit on Sunday afternoons.

In 1916 the Reverend Lucy Milton, who had been for two years pastor of the Gardner parish, began to supply the Westminster church and filled both posts for the next twelve years. She was to be the last Universalist pastor of the town, while becoming one of its most influential citizens. And as the Universalists dwindled in numbers, finally giving up their own services, she gave much energy and devoted much of her time to the other churches.

Charles Foster Giles, clerk of the Universalist church and a trustee, in 1911 married Lucy Milton, who henceforth became well known as the Reverend Lucy Milton Giles.

This remarkable woman was born on her shipmaster father's bark, *Ocean Bride*, off the Australian coast in 1867. All her early girlhood was spent in voyages to the far-flung ports of the world. Her father and mother provided her schooling while at sea. Throughout the incredibly adventurous and rugged seafaring life they led, her parents remained religious New Englanders, and the Bible played a large part in Lucy's early training. After the death of her parents the young woman worked for several years to save enough money to enroll in divinity school.

Officially, in 1928 the Reverend Giles retired from the ministry after eighteen years' service because of poor health. But she continued to preach as substitute for clergymen of other Protestant faiths whenever nearby churches needed her—which seems to have been often.

The Reverend Lucy Milton Giles was instrumental in turning over the old Universalist church building on Main Street to the American Legion in 1933 on a long-term lease basis. In July of that year a final memorial service for the church had been held, with other churches participating, marking the end of a distinguished record of activity. In 1944 the building was presented to the Legion outright; and in 1946 the Universalist Society was finally dissolved.

For about a century, this church had played an important part in the cultural and spiritual life of Westminster. Its complete records are now kept by the Historical Society, together with a brief autobiography of the Reverend Lucy Milton Giles and other data concerning important members of the church.

WESTMINSTER LUTHERAN MISSION

In 1953 members of the Lutheran faith held services in the Town Hall for a short period. Then the pastor, the Reverend Edwin Gorts, was called away to a larger parish. The congregation felt that its number was too small to carry on a parish here at the time, and members returned to attending churches in nearby towns.

In 1958 Vicar Reino Heikkila of Dublin, New Hampshire surveyed the Westminster area and the mission board of the National Evangelical Lutheran Church then called the Reverend LeRoy Philaya in July 1959. At the opening services in the Town Hall, sixty adults and twenty-four youngsters attended. It is hoped building plans and further development will go forward.

In summing up, it may be said that the church buildings of Westminster today are a fine and handsome tribute to a town of its size. The leadership provided has lived up to its responsibilities to the community as a whole, as well as to its individual faiths and parishioners.

SCHOOLS

IT WAS APPARENT BY 1893 that the township of Westminster, with its large area and small population—consisting of the Center and several scattered settlements which had formerly been largely self-supporting—was destined to become a residential community. Larger towns on all sides had retained and expanded their industries, while more and more Westminster people were giving up former pursuits to work in these industrial centers. Farming was becoming a thing of the past, and local industries were of such a nature and so situated that competing with larger towns was out of the question.

Under such conditions schools have always become a major problem. A town with an important industry or industries can always put pressure on its industrial wealth. A residential town can hope only that its individual citizens may be induced to contribute the funds necessary to support its schools properly.

In 1893 the one-room, crossroad elementary schools of Westminster were facing a crisis. Attendance and scholarship had declined to a point which the superintendent, Albert L. Barbour, mildly described as “very unsatisfactory.” One by one the eleven rural schools of the outlying districts were being abandoned. This had happened so gradually that no one seemed able to remember how or when it started—but in 1898 it was voted to close all schools with less than ten pupils. One district had engaged a teacher for exactly four pupils—a situation the teacher of today could envy. The ones in North Westminster and at Heywood’s were the first to be closed; the fate of these buildings is unknown. The one “over north” was reopened and classes were held in the kitchen of the teacher, Mrs. Virginia Brenenstuhl, who thriftily combined cooking and arithmetic. Even so, the girls probably had a better chance than those of a larger school in one field—“home economics.”



LOUGHLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



THE COUNTRY CLUB

Westminster Center, Whitmanville, and North Common school buildings of 1900—Numbers 1, 2, and 9—have been torn down. Those in the Black district, at the Narrows, Beech Hill, South Westminster, and the Depot—Numbers 3, 4, 5, 10, and 12—are today private homes, while the ones at the Lake and in the Minott District—7 and 8—have been moved: one to be used as a camp at Wachusett lake, and the other “just across the road” on Minott Street.

Consolidation was becoming the watchword; why not incorporate the schools at the Center? This project started a long and sometimes bitter struggle. First “recommended” in 1893, then “urged” in 1895, it had reached the boiling point by 1914; but there were then about ninety children registered in the North Common, Depot, Minott, Lake, Whitmanville, North Westminster, and Narrows schools, and it was not till 1934 that all of these schools could be consolidated at the Center—the last one being Whitmanville, Number 2.

Early proponents of consolidation could hardly fail to be gratified, and more likely amazed, at the benefits in education that were to come to Westminster as a result. But it must also be said that the prophets of gloom, who had predicted ruinous expense, must be even more amazed at how far the cost has exceeded their predictions. Doubled and redoubled, this school expense now far outstrips all other expenses of the town. (In the 1948 *Town Report* we find: “*Total Appropriations, \$474,554. Schools, \$260,486.*”)

THE HIGH SCHOOL

The old Westminster Academy building, which was transferred to the town following the closing of the Academy on November 7, 1871, had been used for high school purposes. After this was destroyed by fire in 1888, the pupils had been struggling along in the same crowded wooden structure which housed the elementary grades. Some of the older inhabitants of today smile wryly at an early description of this building (which was built in 1855 and stood at the foot of Academy Hill): “A commodious, well-proportioned structure, an ornament to the village, and an honor to the town, housing the lower grades and the high school.”

A very much larger and truly handsome brick school—the Upton School—was built in 1912. Town funds were augmented by gifts from George and Charles Upton and it was erected on land presented to the town by Frank W. Fenno in memory of his wife, Mary Nichols Fenno. But even with these new quarters (which also served as an elementary school) the high school was an orphan child, feeling more and more pinched as pupils increased in number.

The high school was everywhere a troublesome problem. Some communities had solved it by sending their high school pupils to larger towns or cities. Would it be wise for Westminster to do the same? Would the children gain much in a larger school? How would closing the high school affect the town itself?

At a special town meeting held on May 8, 1928, the question was decided after much discussion both for and against. One can easily picture the excitement when the vote was at last taken and the result announced to keep the high school, 69 votes; to discontinue it, 70. Thus high school students were sent to Fitchburg in September 1928. For the next thirty years Westminster's main problem was the payment of tuition and the providing of transportation.

TEACHERS

Administration and teaching in Westminster during the past half century seem to have been of a high standard. There can be little doubt that the many influential citizens taking an active part in school affairs have attracted and held teachers of better than average ability.

Mrs. Jessie L. Shepard was one. She exerted great influence over her pupils; from 1895 to 1910 she was the one and only teacher of the three-year high school, and principal of the building. "Disciplinarian, organizer, teacher of a high order, many of her pupils went on to make excellent records."

Through the years of service of Lucas Lee Baker, principal of the high school from 1910 to 1921, the school was accredited with an "A" rating by the State Board of Education. Among those teaching with him were Miss Mary Cate, Miss Lois Mossman, Miss Marion Walker, and Miss Frances Jenkins.

Maurice P. Billings was appointed principal in 1927, and remained until 1943. He was also actively interested in the community.

Mrs. Agnes W. Mansur, bearing a name familiar in Westminster history, taught from 1895 until 1917; Miss F. Helene Peter taught from 1903 to 1915; and Mrs. Virginia Brenenstuhl—after the “dame school” days of classes in her kitchen—taught for some years at the Center. Miss Sylvia Turunen of Fitchburg was here from 1928 until 1947. Other teachers with exceptionally long periods of service are: Miss Carrie I. Estabrook, who taught from 1910 to 1956, Miss Doris M. Fenno, 1920-1950. Mrs. Gladys B. Towle who was engaged in 1925 and Miss Mary B. Smith who began her work in 1930 are still members of the school faculty.

Music supervisors were Mrs. Edith Griffin, Miss Etta Harrington, Mrs. Priscilla Mansur Howard, and Miss Hazel Johnson. Art teachers have been Edmund Ketchum, Miss Lois Mossman and the Misses Helen and Juanita Groves. For many years Miss Helen T. McKowen was the school nurse, followed by Mrs. Lempi Tuomi Aalto. It was in 1927 that Miss McKowen established the school dental clinic.

Westminster, Sterling and Princeton formed School Union Number 9 in 1890 with an elected superintendent. By 1909 the office of superintendent was becoming increasingly important under an able administrator, George Rugg. He was followed among others by Guy Vail, Mrs. Marion Stanton, Harold Jackman and Harold L. Ballou. Mr. Ballou served for fourteen years; he was succeeded by Laurence A. Fogg in 1943.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL SYSTEM, 1947-1957

The development of the school system during the past decade is traced in a paper by Edwin Ruuska in the files of the Historical Society. A somewhat condensed version of his account follows.

In recent years Westminster has come in for its share of “residential developments.” Many new homes have brought an ever-increasing number of school children. Enrollment jumped from 248 in 1948 to 640 in 1957. A school building committee was organized in an effort to keep ahead of the classroom shortage.

At a special Town Meeting, December 7, 1950, the town voted

to build a six-room addition to the Loughlin school. S. A. Haynes, architect, and Wiley and Foss, contractors, completed the building—after delays from strikes and shortages—in November 1952. Even as the addition was being dedicated, it was said that still more classrooms would soon be needed.

A school-facilities study group, made up of townspeople, reported to the voters at a special Town Meeting held September 14, 1954. An eight-room addition was recommended, connecting the Upton and Loughlin buildings, with a cafeteria, auditorium, and industrial crafts and home economics facilities. This was approved by a one-vote majority.

Baker and Dingman were retained as architects; Columbus and Berg, contractors. The addition was dedicated on November 7, 1956, and called the Fenno Wing in memory of Frank W. Fenno, who had given land for the schools.

Meanwhile several more rooms had been provided by making use of basement space and a converted gymnasium. More land was acquired from owners French, Fenno, Sargent, and Husari, bringing the total to 17.8 acres. A large swamp area was filled to provide extensive play space and athletic fields. An active Parent-Teachers Association has donated playground equipment.

In 1948 a committee began to study ways and means toward a union high school to accommodate Westminster, Sterling and Princeton. When this committee decided the elementary-school needs must be supplied before embarking on any high school project, Sterling and Princeton withdrew and joined the Wachusett Regional High School district.

After the Loughlin addition was finished Westminster started consultation with Ashburnham, Ashby, Barre, Hubbardston, Lunenburg, Phillipston, and Templeton. Eventually an agreement was reached with Ashburnham: to build a high school for both towns, capital cost divided.

On April 6, 1956, Westminster voted in favor of the scheme and Ashburnham against it. Westminster again turned to other neighbors. While discussing an arrangement with Hubbardston and Barre, Ashburnham came back into the picture with an offer of forty-six percent of the capital cost. Both towns ratified this plan August 14, 1957.

A drastic change in the administration of Westminster schools occurred in 1953. The town was permitted to withdraw from the union with Sterling and Princeton. Superintendent Fogg stayed with the other two towns and Westminster appointed W. Alan McCracken, a local principal, to be its own superintendent, in addition to his regular duties as principal.

When Mr. McCracken left, the committee decided a superintendent should not also be expected to carry on the job of principal. Frank D. Lawler of Manchester, an experienced administrator, was engaged as superintendent; and Joseph B. Aveni of Westminster became principal.

Maintenance has become another ever-increasing problem with the sudden growth of the schools. Before he retired in 1952, one janitor, Fred Goodridge, was able to care for the two buildings of that time, firing separate coal-burning boilers. Today, even though heating is by an oil-fired central system, two fulltime custodians, a part-time helper, and a part-time matron are necessary. We must use new and more appropriate words—the old-time “janitor” is now “custodian”; doubtless he will soon graduate to “maintenance engineer.”

A typing class for the ninth grade was set up in 1949; Industrial Crafts and Home Economics courses in 1956. A dental clinic was re-opened. The cafeteria opened in 1956, serving hot lunches to six hundred. The interroom communications system was installed in the same year. And in 1957, a new class for retarded children was begun.

The P.T.A., Woman's Club, and other organizations, and the generosity and interest of many citizens, have all contributed much to the thoroughly modern and scholastically high Westminster schools of today.

A list of the school staff from 1947 to 1957 appears in the Appendix.

Chapter Seven

THE LIBRARY STORY

EDITOR'S NOTE: *While the account which follows—by Mabel Ray Fenno and Josephine D. Gilman—goes back somewhat into events covered by the Heywood History, the material was considered of more value if included as a whole.*

The impressive building which contains both Library and Museum was designed at the turn of the century by architects Frost, Briggs and Chamberlain of Worcester. Contractors were Allen Brothers of Amherst, and the basic cost was about eighteen thousand dollars.

Charles A. Forbush, whose will contained the original ten-thousand-dollar bequest, was the last of a well-known Westminster family. He never married; he lived on an extensive estate in the northern part of the town, where he had been born February 25, 1830. He traveled widely throughout the world during the years just prior to his death on November 14, 1899. Mr. Forbush specified that the library be dedicated to the memory of his cousin, Joseph W. Forbush, from whom he had received a legacy. The family had operated successfully, in earlier years, a Westminster tannery, a chair factory, and a bakery.

The authors of the following paper are both presently residents of the town. Mrs. Fenno is a descendant of the Ray family, familiar in Westminster history. She has long been an enthusiast in library work. Several years of business training and experience plus extra-curricular courses in library science at Simmons College and Clark University have added to her value as a librarian.

Mrs. Gilman has been a free-lance writer for several years, and has had articles published in many leading newspapers and magazines.

WESTMINSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1853-1959

By Mabel Ray Fenno, Librarian

with Josephine D. Gilman

1195478

The birthday of Westminster's first free public library now reaches back one hundred and six years. On a cold winter's night in 1853, a group of civic-minded young people met at a private home to form the Young People's Literary Society.

This was the forerunner of several groups working toward the eventual building of a permanent library. The present Westminster Public Library, housed in the Forbush Memorial Building at the corner of Main and Bacon Streets, is the culmination of the dreams and tireless efforts of many people through many years to advance culture in their town.

Even before our first free libraries, the citizens of the town were book-minded. A "social library" was started in the late 1700's. According to the town history it ". . . had wide patronage and ran a long career of usefulness." Begun by an association of joint stockholders, it was accessible to the public on payment of fixed annual fees. The books were sold at public auction in 1835 and the association dissolved.

Later, church societies organized libraries of religious books for both children and adults. There followed a Common School Library, sanctioned by the State Board of Education.

A public library's needs have always been basic—money, practical management, and a constant supply of good books for the townspeople. In this respect, the Westminster Public Library of today, with its twelve thousand volumes, has much the same aims and problems as the little group who met over one hundred years ago.

Its first officers—"organized to promote the moral, intellectual and social improvement of the community"—were: President, W. S. Abbot (Academy principal); Secretary, Darius M. Allen (later called "Parent of the Library"); Treasurer, Abraham W. Wood; Directors, George Peckham, S. A. Burgess, Martha B. Fenno, Sarah Cummings.

From fees (one dollar annually for men, seventy-five cents for

women) and a loan, they were able to raise seventy-five dollars. Then they made their original purchase of a hundred books: their first choice, Bayard Taylor's travel books.

Five years later, despite the addition of several hundred volumes in the flush of early prosperity, interest began to wane. Mrs. Sarah H. Whitman, the secretary, asked of her committee: "Shall it dwindle from want of support or shall it become the foundation of a large and valuable Town Library?"

Apparently it was to dwindle for a while. It wasn't until 1865 that the Society joined with the Farmers' Library and reorganized under the name "Westminster Library Association," with a hundred and forty persons.

After refusing several times, in 1868 the town finally voted to accept the Library Association as a town institution. Fifty dollars was appropriated annually, its care being left in the hands of the Selectmen.

The books were presented to the town with the understanding that a committee be chosen annually for their care. This condition seems at first to have been disregarded: for ten years complaints were many and bitter concerning the lack of regard for the books.

A committee was eventually elected, making its first report at the town meeting in 1878. (Years later, this was noted as the turning point "since which, the growth, interest and usefulness of the Library have steadily increased.")

After the committee took charge, the first librarian was Miss Hattie Minott. Her term, unfortunately, was cut short by death after a year's service. Mrs. Sarah C. Warner was the second librarian, holding the office for eighteen years, after which Mary Belle Hager was elected.

When State laws required free public libraries to have a Board of Trustees, another member was added to the committee in 1896—making six, known henceforth officially as the Library Trustees. These were Mrs. Sarah C. Warner, Mrs. A. R. Hager, Miss Abbie S. Brown, Mr. A. J. Bolton, Mrs. Helen L. Bruce, and Mr. Hobart Raymond.

In the years leading to the building of the present Library, at various meetings, it was recorded that:

The balance of a long-standing Singing School fund was accepted.

Three reams of paper were purchased for book jackets—heavy brown paper much like that used in a butchershop.

Persons using the Library were allowed two books a week, one fiction, the other nonfiction. Teachers had special borrowing privileges.

In case of contagious diseases in families whose houses contained library books, the volumes were to be destroyed by the librarian, and the family charged for them.

An orphan child, the Library had moved around from one place to another since its beginning. Books had been kept at the Universalist Church (now the Legion Hall), the Brick Store, in private homes, and finally in the Selectmen's Room at the Town Hall. At last they found a permanent home, when the Forbush Memorial Building was erected in 1901.

The site of the Library had proved to be a bone of contention. Three lots were available. The committee's choice now seems best, in point of appearance and convenience, though at the time it was the most costly. The price of twenty-five hundred dollars was subject to agreement that the four-story Reed house on the plot be moved to a suitable location on Main Street.

In those days, it was common practice to move houses on huge rollers, using horsepower aided by a capstan. Some of the townspeople of today can remember when the tall, pillared house sailed majestically up the road and came to rest several blocks west. This building was later to become famous as the Westminster Tavern; it was destroyed by fire in 1948.

A ten-thousand-dollar bequest to the town for the new Library from Charles A. Forbush, in memory of his cousin, Joseph W. Forbush, was augmented by a gift of more than \$6000 from some eighty generous citizens. Among them were F. W. Fenno, C. C. Dawley, D. C. Miles, Hiram Ray, E. B. Lynde, J. C. Goodridge, C. F. Giles, F. H. Battles.

A formal dedication ceremony in August 1902 included appropriate speeches, noted guests, and entertainment provided by poetry readings and music.

General Miles, Westminster's most famous citizen, was guest of honor; Hamilton Mayo of Leominster, main speaker; D. C. Miles, chairman of the building committee, presided.

The two-story English-style brick building housed, then as now, reading and reference rooms on the ground floor, with the entire second floor used as a museum. This museum has continued to interest the public, and the flow of gifts that began at the opening has never ceased. Long ago it became necessary to house the larger objects—plows, sleds, looms and spinning-wheels—in the basement. Upstairs are flags and guns and swords of the Revolutionary, Civil and World Wars, Indian relics, the town's first piano, important paintings—objects that follow, step by step, the years from the founding of the two-hundred-year-old town to the present day.

Thus the Library was off to a good start, with Mary Belle Hager in charge of some five thousand volumes. There was warm-air heating, and gaslight. The town could be expected to raise an annual two hundred and fifty dollars. There was also the dog tax, curiously making the number of dogs in town determine the number of books available.

The secretary's book notes progress and problems of the Library during the next score of years. An assistant librarian was hired for twenty-five dollars a year. Schools were invited to exhibit arts and crafts. Circulation went to six thousand.

Sarah F. Greene became librarian in 1904, a woman whose work was painstaking and accurate in classifying and cataloguing the books. In that year thirty trees were planted on the three-quarter-acre lot, many of which still remain.

In 1908 it was voted to allow the librarian to select and purchase books—the ladies of the committee, it was complained, had too feminine a taste in reading matter. More scientific books were added.

By 1911 such chronic problems as dealing with youthful noisemakers and even occasional breaks into the building were becoming taken for granted. Librarian and janitor were each paid a hundred dollars a year, assistant librarian fifty.

In 1913 the age limit for children borrowing books was lowered to ten years. (Today pre-school children may take out books if accompanied by adults.) In 1916-1917 the Cutter cataloguing sys-

tem was put into use; a War Library added; and a two-cents-a-day charge on new books was initiated.

Beginning in 1919, there was for a time a branch library in Whitmanville, and five years later another at the Narrows, in the home of Miss Lizzie E. Baker. Books were carried to and fro from the main library by a grocer's deliveryman. (Today the grocer's basket is displayed in the Library.)

Several new lights were installed in 1924.

In 1925 a swarm of bees made the chimney its home, the first of several such visitors. In 1938 three hundred pounds of honey and ten quarts of dead bees were removed from the chimney flues.

Edith L. Harrington became librarian in 1939. She was a faithful worker, and gracious to visitors. In 1941 a typewriter was at last provided—all records, letters and cards having been written by hand before that time. And the following year, marking another step forward, Westminster Library joined with twenty others to form The Wachusett Library Association. Also in 1942 Mabel R. Fenno began work at the library as assistant. A telephone was installed in 1945, ending a hard-won struggle started more than twenty-five years earlier.

Mrs. Fenno—who resigned as of May 1, 1959—became librarian in 1949. Mrs. Hazel Havener—at present co-librarian with Mrs. Ardythe Smith—began work at the same time.

The 1950's show many changes under Mrs. Fenno and Mrs. Havener. A new reference file was started to preserve news items of the Town of Westminster and its people. Important aids for librarians were acquired, such as the *Book List*, the standard catalogs, the *Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index*, and others. The Library participated in a Regional Loan Plan started by Fitchburg Public Library and carried on by twenty regional librarians. Story hours were resumed after a lapse of some years. The comfort of patrons was enhanced by the installation of oil heating and fluorescent lighting.

In 1958 a film service was begun. "National Book Week" and "National Art Week" were observed, attracting many visitors and arousing much latent interest in reading. Change from the Cutter to the newer Dewey Decimal System of classification was also begun. Another improvement in recent years has been the shellacking of all books, a far better method of preservation than the heavy

brown-paper covers used in former times. Today's adult reference volumes and books for use by the schools are comprehensive and up-to-date.

The Library is open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, averaging 152 days a year, or a total of 1040 hours. Before her retirement Mrs. Fenno advocated keeping open "either more hours a day or more days a week to accommodate its many patrons." The Museum alone attracts several hundred people yearly. The building is also a meeting place for such groups as the Historical Society and the Great Books Discussion Club.

Today's annual appropriation runs to some five thousand dollars in addition to the dog tax fund. Reserve funds and trust funds bring in several hundred dollars annually. The salaries of the librarian and assistant now total \$2050 per year.

Many valuable presents have been given to the Library. In addition to trust funds and cash bequests, there are the primitive paintings of Deacon Robert Peckham, and the sculptures by Olin D. Warner. The painting of Mount Wachusett which hangs above the fireplace was commissioned from William Savery Bucklin by several townspeople. Special furnishings and equipment were gifts from C. F. Giles, Louise W. Caldwell, and others. A handsome grandfather clock came from Alanson Bigelow; from others, sets of encyclopedias, panels of butterflies, mineral cabinets . . . the list seems endless.

Outstanding over the years has been the service of library officers. There have been but four librarians, and many officers have served for more than a score of years.

The Library is sure to keep pace with the town. But in some of its basic functions it will always remain the same—giving help and encouragement to those interested in research and learning, sheltering the lonely who enjoy a few hours' reading companionably with others, and keeping us in touch with the world across its shelves.

TRUSTEES

Hobart Raymond 1885-1903

Charles F. Giles 1899-1938

Frank W. Fenno 1899-1938
 Helen L. Bruce 1897-1906
 Ellen M. Wright 1900-1917
 Myra C. Whitney 1900-1918
 Fred W. Mossman 1903-1915
 Edith M. Griffin 1906-1918
 Cyrus T. Miller 1912-1939
 The Reverend Wm. C. McAllester 1915-1924
 Ida E. Merriam 1917-1944
 Sarah J. Wyman 1918-1935
 The Reverend Lucy M. Giles 1918-1942
 The Reverend Winfield S. Randall 1924-1928
 Maurice P. Billings 1928-1943
 Martha F. Wyman 1935-1938
 Doris M. Fenno 1938-
 Arthur K. Rice 1938-1950
 Robert M. Denton 1938-1950
 Lois F. Innis 1942-1954
 Edwin Ruuska 1955-
 J. Philip Howard 1943-
 Lillian McAllester 1944-1958
 Arthur Sisson 1949-1950
 Marion R. Noble 1950-
 Edward W. Hitchcock 1951-

LIBRARIANS

Mary Belle Hager 1902-1904
 Sarah F. Greene 1904-1939
 Edith L. Harrington 1939-1948
 Mabel Ray Fenno 1949-1959

ASSISTANTS

Edith M. Griffin 1902-1903
 Lillian G. Drury 1904-1916
 Edith L. Harrington 1916-1939
 Lois F. Innis 1939-1942
 Mabel Ray Fenno 1942-1948
 Hazel Havener 1949-

THE WATER QUESTION

APART FROM THE DECLINE of agriculture, a great deal of the evolution of Westminster can be directly traced to the nature of its water resources. Its four principal natural lakes, and its several good-sized streams, lay in widely separated areas of the township. Later, man-made reservoirs were equally scattered about. This led to the growth of the industrial hamlets of Wachusett Village, South Westminster, Whitmanville, and others. Each sawmill and gristmill (followed by paper mills and chair factories) accumulated a cluster of dwellings close by.

Meanwhile Westminster Center continued to be the hub of activity—because it was on the main Post Road and it was the seat of town government and trade, rather than because of industry. Its altitude, nearly a thousand feet above much of the surrounding terrain, presented little problem before 1900. The limited water needs of an earlier day were reasonably satisfied by means of wells and springs.

But with the advent of central schools, modern plumbing and fire equipment, the need for a municipal water system began to be felt. Records of town meetings between 1900 and 1910 show that a definite impasse had been reached.

This impasse was not destined to be solved to any appreciable extent until fifty years later. Meanwhile, the scattered industries elsewhere in the township ceased to exist—and some of the hamlets around them also disappeared. Many buildings were actually moved overland to the Center. Ponds and streams were gradually taken over by nearby cities, and by mills in those cities, for their own water reserves. Westminster Center remained high and (when there was little rain) dry.

A town must have adequate water to expand and grow. Had the town been entirely dependent on its individual wells and springs,

action would have been taken sooner. But there was a water system, serving much of the Center, called the Westminster Aqueduct Company. In addition to this, there were cases where certain homeowners had banded together to share a common pipeline from some nearby spring. But this did not offer adequate volume or distribution of water for general fire protection, nor did it help new homes in or near the Center.

The Aqueduct Company was started in 1891 by Edwin L. Burnham, Israel Dickinson, Stephen F. Lamb, John G. F. Urban, Edward B. Lynde, and Dr. A. E. Mossman. A thousand dollars was raised by these men and a pipe laid from a spring in a "pasture owned by Mr. William Carter," according to Historical Society records. Also according to the records, during the excavating and walling-up of the spring, a cow met her sudden and violent demise. She had chewed on a stick of dynamite.

It would appear that the new company began with some sixteen water customers, adding others from time to time. But a severe drought in 1900 apparently found the supply inadequate, and another larger spring was excavated. From this a four-inch pipe was laid to the town. Such a system was by no means large enough to support hydrants, although after some years a sort of cistern was built in front of the Brick Store from which a fire engine could draw. But occasional bad fires, such as the one which destroyed the Westminster Hotel in 1948, emphasized the need for a hydrant system.

As early as 1907 a report was made to the town meeting by a board of fire engineers consisting of John C. Goodridge, Cyrus T. Miller, Wickliffe H. Waterhouse, and H. E. Spaulding. They recommended a town water system which, according to their fairly detailed estimates, would cost eleven thousand dollars. It was to include a pump, with a fifty-two-thousand-gallon standpipe to be erected on land "owned by Aldin F. Adams, situated near the West Cemetery, which he will sell reasonable." They also advised purchase of the Aqueduct Company, though no price was set. If they were discouraged by the rejection of their plan, how much more so they would have been if they could have foreseen that by 1947 the voters would still be arguing the same question!

One can imagine feelings may have suffered from considerable tension at some of these meetings. There is an article in the *Town*

Report, 1905: "To see if the town will authorize the selectmen, or any committee, to bring suit against or make an agreement with the parties who control the water system which formerly supplied the public library, or appropriate any sum of money for the purpose aforesaid, or act anything relative thereto."

Indeed, over the years, the private water company was often under fire. It couldn't supply the demands of new customers without provoking the old ones who had suffered from lack of water in dry times. Meanwhile soaring costs made any great improvements out of the question financially.

It is of little moment here to go into the details of the many meetings, committee reports, and political skirmishes on the water front over such a long period. To mention a typical item at random, we find the following article in the *Town Report* for 1929: "To hear the report of the Water Committee chosen by the Town at a Town Meeting held November 22, 1929, and to raise and appropriate any sum of money to carry on further investigation as recommended therein, or act in relation thereto."

From the wording of this article it may be assumed that the town fathers were dragging their feet somewhat. Special town meetings are troublesome and expensive. Yet the result of the special meeting of November was this article at the regular March meeting, merely calling for continued "investigation," with no possibility for any direct action. And these "investigations" had been carried out, from time to time, since 1906—twenty-three years!

A special town meeting in 1947 came to nothing because of legal difficulties in the nature of the proposed course of action. Another special meeting, in 1948, voted to accept a report for a system to cost \$285,000, and at the following annual town meeting a board of water commissioners was finally duly elected. However, at a subsequent special town meeting—held to implement this report—the anticipated water system was rejected by a margin of two votes.

More town meetings in 1951 failed to ratify a town water system plan, but \$5000 was raised to provide the schools with an artesian well.

In 1953 the dry summer had led the selectmen to authorize pumping through a temporary line from Meetinghouse Pond, an emergency situation having been declared. Citizens demanded another special meeting on November 4. This meeting lasted for three

and a half hours. Finally a vote was taken on a motion for a system to cost two hundred and fifty thousand dollars—a two-thirds majority being necessary, by law, to raise such a sum. It failed to pass. (For the measure, 365; against, 291.)

Again, the water proposal was defeated at the first two or three meetings held in 1954. But the pro-water faction was working hard and gaining votes, and it was decided to make another try in October. Plans called for a pumping station at Meetinghouse Pond, from which water could be drawn under an agreement with the City of Fitchburg. (Ironically, while Westminster was wrestling over the years with the problem of town water, Fitchburg had acquired this beautiful Westminster lake in 1892 for its own supply.)

At the meeting on February 23, 1954, the plan for a new water system seemed to be gaining a great deal more support and public interest than formerly. It was a long three-hour session. And while the project was defeated by the ultimate vote, it was felt that this defeat was based on uncompleted details of organization rather than on any concrete grounds of the opposition.

Further organization before the next meeting, held in September 1954, resulted in the following rather ambiguous headline in the papers of September 30: *WESTMINSTER KILLS WATER PLAN BY 37 VOTES BUT OPPOSITION RECONCILED TO MEASURE.*

The headline is explained by Preston Baker, a selectman, quoted in the text, who said, “. . . A meeting [was] held following the defeat of the plan, between the selectmen, water commissioners, moderator, and certain influential members of the opposition.” And he implied that the “influential members of the opposition” had been so impressed with the plan as presented at this meeting that they were now willing to swing over, and at a subsequent meeting would throw their weight actively in favor. It was also felt that the record turnout—exactly one-half the total of voters on the checklist—would be even greater at the next meeting.

This proved to be the case. The last special meeting was reported in the following headline of October 14, 1954: *WESTMINSTER'S LONG FIGHT FOR WATER ENDS IN 19-VOTE VICTORY MARGIN; TURNOUT BIGGEST IN TOWN'S HISTORY.* The account goes on:

The town last night voted to install a \$350,000 water system by a vote of 575 to 258, or 19 votes over the necessary two-thirds of 556 votes.

Several factors were responsible for the victory Defeated innumerable times in the past (four times in the past three years) the ten-mile water system worked out by the water commissioners and selectmen was termed the finest system ever presented.

Secondly, the enabling act, drawn by Rep. J. Philip Howard imposes a two-thirds, one-third system of taxation, with those on the water system bearing the heavier load. The system will eventually be self-supporting.

When the votes were finally counted late in the evening, the hall "rang with cheers."

Thus, after more than half a century, the struggle came to an end. The town now has a water supply which should remain fully adequate within the foreseeable future.

PUBLIC SERVICES

TRAINS, TROLLEYS AND BUSES

THE DIRECT EFFECT of the railroads on Westminster had long been recognized by 1893. It was not a healthy effect so far as industry was concerned. Because of the central village's high elevation, the tracks passed some two miles distant. In a day when horses must be used to move both passengers and freight between village and depot, two miles was too much.

Until 1899 it looked as though the town would be lucky to hold its own as a rather poor agricultural community. Then came the trolley cars. Optimism soared. Cheap mass transportation between Gardner and Fitchburg would bring prosperity to Westminster, located strategically in the middle. Electricity would conquer the steep grades.

Conquer them it did, but not very efficiently. Heavy snows were never overcome, and freight could not be handled successfully by the light cars. At the end of its first ten years, the Gardner, Westminster and Fitchburg line had seen its profits eaten away by accidents and upkeep, and already it was being badly hurt by the ever-increasing automobiles. *An Historical Society paper by Mrs. Florence B. Rice describes the streetcar line in detail, and from this we take the following:*

. . . The Gardner, Westminster and Fitchburg Street Railway was built in 1899. The first track was laid out to Wachusett Park from the Gatehouse, 60 foot rails being used. On September 29, the road was complete from Waites Corner to E. B. Kelty's house (now opposite Brandt's Garage) just beyond the power station, the latter having been built together with a car barn. One large double-truck and two single-truck cars from the St. Louis Car Company were equipped in Fitchburg and run to Westminster

on the twenty-ninth; this was the date of the then-important Westminster Cattle Show.

The first car through town was run by Marcus Coolidge, a native of Westminster and builder of the road. The three cars were then taken over by conductor Henry J. Black and motormen Everett Bates and William Ela of Gardner; and three F. & L. [Fitchburg and Leominster] Railway men from Fitchburg. The cars ran from Waites Corner to the Westminster Hotel and back until 9:30 in the evening, then a car ran in early morning to carry Fitchburg people home from the dance. Fare was a nickel.

It was unfortunate that there should have to be an accident on the first day at noon. Going down Marshall Hill a car collided with a fruit wagon. Mrs. Frank Cosentino of Fitchburg was thrown heavily from the wagon to the ground, and the horse was killed. Mrs. Cosentino was injured but not fatally. The company was insured. [EDITOR'S NOTE: *Such insurance in those days was seldom adequate for more than minor damages.*]

Mr. Coolidge had been in charge of the road but that day Superintendent Frederick LeNoir assumed charge. The following Sunday two cars (one borrowed from the F. & L.) made trips between Westminster Hotel and Waites Corner from noon until 6:30; and beginning Monday a car ran daily, Clinton Cross and George Sawin in charge.

Meantime the road toward Gardner was being built. Near the end of October the final connection was made, and on a Sunday the first through cars ran from Gardner to Waites Corner.

LeNoir, superintendent of the Gardner road since the resignation of Coolidge in 1895, was put in charge of the consolidated road.

The summer of 1900 began auspiciously. Large cars ran Sundays between the crowded and popular Wachusett Park and Whalom. Cars were all in use and filled with excursionists.

Then on Sunday, June 17, at 7:15 in the evening, a serious accident occurred. A loaded car bound for Fitchburg from Gardner, run by motorman W. E. Doe and conductor Henry Withington, collided with a double-truck car coming from Waites Corner just above the Wyman turnout. The latter car was manned by Allen Fairbanks and Albert Asman. Although no one was killed, several were seriously injured. This cost the company several thousand

dollars to settle, several of the cases having been taken to court. It was a setback for the road, which was unable to pay a dividend until the debt was wiped out. Finally a one and one-half percent dividend was declared.

Meanwhile the board of directors was changed. . . .

But the electric street cars, so far as country villages were concerned, had quickly become somewhat uncomfortable conveniences for those who could not afford autos. Recognizing them as such, investors were reluctant to further support them or a company that seldom paid dividends. The G. W. & F. generator station in Westminster was therefore abandoned in favor of public utility power, and there were changes of management and mergers with larger lines. By 1921 the line was in receivership and the rattling, swaying cars with their sparking overhead cables made their last run at the end of 1923.

Only seven years later, the Boston and Maine railway depot in Westminster was closed. Trains could no longer afford to stop where often there would be no waiting passengers or freight. After 1930 the town was to depend entirely on highway transportation.

Organized bus service followed quickly on the heels of the departed electric cars. Shaky and uncertain at first, competition soon appeared and service improved rapidly. By the 1950's we find the Boston and Maine, Flanagan's Bus Lines, Trailways, Wilson Bus Lines and Vermont Transit all serving Westminster. Over twenty established trucking firms now operate in the area. For long-distance travel there are the Fitchburg and Gardner railway stations and airports within a few minutes' drive by taxi, bus or car.

Today there is an almost constant flow of heavy traffic through the center of town. The appearance of quiet isolation that existed twenty-five or thirty years ago seems ended now forever.

HIGHWAYS

As can be seen on the map in this book, Westminster today is crisscrossed by several main traffic arteries. The principal high-

ways are (1) Route 2 from Boston, east-west across the state, Westminster's most heavily traveled highway, (2) Route 140 from New Bedford, which joins Route 2 in Westminster Center and follows it west to Gardner, where Route 140 goes north, (3) Route 2A from Fitchburg, terminating at Route 2 just east of the center of town, (4) Route 31, running north-south from New Hampshire to Connecticut, crossing the eastern sector of the town, and (5) Route 12, another north-south state highway, running through the northern sector. *For a complete list of public roads, see Appendix.*

ELECTRIC SERVICE

From another paper by Mrs. Florence B. Rice in the files of the Historical Society we take the following description and history of electric power and services in Westminster.

Electric service first became available to the people of Westminster in 1912. The town late in 1911 having granted initial road-crossing and pole-location permits, the Gardner Electric Light Company, a subsidiary of the New England Electric System, proceeded with construction of facilities which during the first year of operation supplied electric service to nineteen homes, and provided thirty-seven street lights.

The original construction involved a short 61-pole 2200-volt distribution line in the center of Westminster, a 150-KVA single-phase substation just west of the old car barn, and a mile of 66,000-volt supply line connecting to the main transmission system of the New England Power Company, also a subsidiary of the New England Electric System.

In 1912, when electricity was used primarily for lighting purposes, the residential rate for electric service in Westminster was fifteen cents a kilowatt hour and the average home used some 245 kilowatt-hours a year. In subsequent years, although some reductions were made, rates continued at relatively high levels until the early 1930's, when electric stoves and refrigerators came into general home use and a rapid increase in residential consumption permitted substantial rate reductions. Today, with most homes

using a wide range of electrical appliances, the average domestic customer in Westminster uses over 2400 kilowatt hours a year at an average rate of about three cents a kilowatt hour, approximately one fifth that of 1912.

During the first few years of electric service in Westminster, lines were extended throughout the central part of town and a second 66,000-volt supply line was brought into the substation to provide an alternate source of electricity. In the early 1920's lines were extended into the Lakewood Park area, and from 1927 to 1931 construction of new lines provided service to the North Common, Whitmanville, Fitchburg and Depot Road areas. With the extension of lines into the South Westminster and Bean Porridge Hill areas during the late 1930's, electric service became available throughout all sections of Westminster.

Although Westminster is primarily a residential community, there is some use of electric service for commercial and industrial purposes. Dawley and Shepard, Inc., New England's oldest cracker bakery, was one of the original customers and, with replacement of the steam engine in the bakery with a single-phase electric motor, the town's first power customer. The C. L. Smith Box Corporation, another of the town's older concerns, became the first to use three-phase service for general power purposes when electric motors replaced water power during the early 1930's. One of the town's newer concerns, Westminster's famous eating place, the Old Mill, has grown rapidly to become its largest consumer of electricity.

As lines were extended and the use of electric service gradually increased over the years, the original substation was changed from single-phase to three-phase and the capacity increased from 150 to 300 KVA. In 1948 the capacity was again doubled to 600 KVA, and in 1954 it was further increased to 1500 KVA. During the last decade, however, as Westminster experienced a substantial growth in construction of new homes which doubled the number of residential customers, the use of electric service increased to such an extent that the distribution system which had served the town for some forty-seven years was no longer adequate.

To provide additional facilities, the Worcester County Electric Company, successor to the Gardner Electric Light Company, after conducting long-range engineering studies, embarked on a program

of rebuilding the present 2400-volt distribution system with a new system operating at 13,200 volts. Included in this program is replacement by the New England Power Company of the present 1500-KVA substation with a new 5000-KVA one.

Completion by mid-1959 of these new modern facilities should continue to assure adequate facilities capable of serving the electrical needs of the people of Westminster for the future.

THE TELEPHONE

Many Westminster residents still remember a day when the telephone was not a part of everyday life as it has always been for the present younger population. On September 10, 1904, the first central office was established in the kitchen of Mrs. Sarah E. Drury in the house on Leominster Street now owned by Mr. Albert Arcangeli. Mrs. Drury and her daughter were the operators.

At first there was no regular night or Sunday service. But after a time, subscribers learned that if enough demands were made on a Sunday the service would be extended; and later, night service was also recognized as important.

The second central office was run by Mrs. Charles R. Dutton, in the house where Mr. Alfred P. Jones now lives. Here a special switchboard room was built.

A third transfer of "Central" was made around 1925, when Mrs. Arthur Bascom became the operator, and the office was moved into the Urban house just below the drugstore. Here it remained until the dial system was introduced on March 17, 1955. The dial phone building erected on Elliott Street then took over, in its mechanical fashion, the friendly and faithful duties so long performed by Westminster "Centrals."

It is the same story here as in most other small towns and rural areas. People accept the improvements of technology, but still miss the human service—"They say the fire is out at the Jones place." . . . "All right, if you're going to rest awhile, I won't put any calls through for an hour unless it's something urgent." . . . "They don't seem to answer—probably they're all over at the school, it's Johnny's graduation night, you know."

A brief account of the first private telephone in Westminster appears in Chapter Sixteen.

TOWN CLOCK

What is a town clock? It might be called part of a public building, or an accessory of town government; but we may as well list it here as a public service, which it surely is. And as such the clock in the belfry of the Baptist church has faithfully proclaimed the hours since its purchase, in 1873, for thirteen hundred dollars, from E. Howard and Company of Boston. Four hundred dollars were raised by the town, the rest by private means; then later the same year the town's interest was deeded to the church, which repaid the town for its share. However, the town has continued to raise twenty dollars annually for the care of the town clock. Maintenance of that venerable timepiece has long since become a Westminster tradition.

INNS

Westminster has always been known as a hospitable town from the traveler's standpoint. According to the Heywood *History* the wayfarer looking for a night's lodging could choose from among several hostelries, some fourteen having operated before 1892. At that time the Old Westminster House was most popular, across from the present Adams Street. In the 1890's and early 1900's, catering to vacationists, it constituted a fairly important, though not large, part of town life.

In a bad fire, started from efforts at thawing a frozen water pipe, on November 28, 1903, the hotel was destroyed. Gardner and Fitchburg fire units that were called to assist local firemen fought desperately, and succeeded in preventing the fire from spreading to other buildings in the area.

In 1906 the Westminster Tavern opened at the corner of Main and Eaton Streets. Once the imposing private residence of the Phineas Reed family, it had been used as tenements before opening

as a hotel. In 1900 the building was moved some distance along Main Street to make room for the library. (*See Chapter Sixteen for further reference to this building.*)

This inn, also, burned—on March 13, 1948—fire having spread late at night from a nearby small house. It was one of Westminster's worst tragedies; two little girls lost their lives in the small house, which was totally destroyed.

There appears to have been some business also in the taking of paying guests by some of the larger farms, especially in summer. Maple Heights Farm was particularly well known for the first fifteen to twenty years of the century. It contained about ten bedrooms, and was operated by Mr. Albert Howard. The place was sold by his son, Nathan Howard, in 1948.

In general, however, catering to the tourist and transient trade—the restaurant and inn business—cannot be said to have played a very significant part in the town's economy between 1893 and 1930. Then, when improved roads and vastly stepped-up motorist travel appeared, many "tourist homes" and several small eating establishments began to flourish. This period was followed by the advent of the motel and the super-restaurant, with the result that the Old Mill, described in Chapter Ten, soon became a leading town industry.

INDUSTRIES, BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

FREDERICK W. MOSSMAN, chairman of the 1909 Anniversary celebration, said in his introductory speech on that occasion, "The forty or more chair shops . . . have one by one been removed, until today only one remains." That one factory, the Mather and Pierce Company in Whitmanville, together with almost all the other little mills and shops around Westminster, went out of business in the next few years.

Even in 1890, though agriculture was still prosperous on many of the original farms, the town was well on the way toward becoming the largely residential area we find today. This trend was recognized in speeches and writings of the period. Today only a small fraction of local revenue (see *Valuation & Taxes* books published by the town) comes from local industries.

Active farms have become so few, in fact, that the total tax from livestock—mostly poultry—is only about five hundred dollars per year. The historically celebrated bakery of "Westminster Crackers" yields under a thousand; the new industry of motel operation is taxed for considerably more.

By far the largest tax from private industry—over \$11,500—comes from the Crocker-Burbank and Company, Assn. paper manufacturing concern of Fitchburg. This company has long been intimately associated with Westminster. It retains a large amount of property in the town, mostly connected with its dams and water-rights.* Thirty-one separate property holdings are currently listed, and the Fitchburg firm gives employment to many Westminster residents.

Industries which cater primarily to the needs of a residential area with the demands of through-traffic now make up the chief local

* (Crocker-Burbank reservoirs are mentioned in Chapter 13 of *The Lengthening Shadow of One Man*, by Wm. B. Wheelwright and Sumner Kean, a company history privately published in 1957.)

businesses—eating places, gas stations, garages, stores, poultry-raising, house-building, and various “services.” An exception is one relatively new small manufacturing concern, the Advance Coatings Company, which is described later in this chapter.

Having thus briefly established the connection between Westminster’s industrial present and past, we will continue with a description of individual industries now operating. Then we will take up some of those which ceased to exist at some time between 1893 and 1958.

WESTMINSTER CRACKERS

Prominent in the town’s center is a picturesque old two-story frame building, the large letters WESTMINSTER CRACKERS painted across its clapboard front. (The thrifty management of Dawley and Shepard still dispenses with more costly signs.) Until four or five years ago the long wing in the back was conspicuous for an amazing number of brick chimneys, as though some ancient brick mason had gone mad. But today the chimneys are no longer there, and the familiar fragrant odor of fresh-baked crackers comes from ultra-modern gas-fired ovens.

The bakery’s early existence is described in the Heywood *History* (page 319) up to the time of its sale, in about 1893, to J. Boardman. The business was started by Alfred Wyman in 1845, who according to Heywood “offered to the community an article of consumption which rose at once to almost universal favor, being in great demand not only at home but in the surrounding country for a dozen or twenty miles away—in all localities, indeed, where it was known.”

There had been several changes of ownership in the bakery before 1895, and one would have thought that the old-fashioned crackers—long its staple product—would also have changed in character. But they seem to have enjoyed a steady popularity, and when Charles C. Dawley and Frank H. Battles took over in the early 1890’s these crackers were well known within a fifty-mile radius.

In 1905 Dawley and his sons, Charles B. and George L., bought out Battles. Then in 1918 George L. Dawley was joined by Herman

A. Shepard, and the firm became Dawley and Shepard. This firm name continues, though the Dawleys acquired the Shepard interest in 1941, three years after the business had been incorporated.

Porter W. Dawley, grandson of the first Dawley to enter the business, is now president, and his wife clerk of the corporation. Dawley is a University of Michigan graduate. The family home is a stately Colonial eighteenth-century house near the bakery.

Four types of crackers are now produced, together with packaged cracker-meal. Sales are said to have increased some two hundred and fifty percent in the past decade, and distribution is greatly expanded. Employing some sixteen persons, this unique business now seems even more solidly established in the town's economy than at any time during its more-than-a-century of operation.

C. L. SMITH BOX CORPORATION

When the nineteenth century saw so many communities in northern Massachusetts swing from agriculture to industry, Westminster was for a time on a par with its neighbors in this respect. Many woodenware factories, paper mills, and other small industries flourished.

Then, largely because of the railroad situation—Westminster's high elevation precluded central railroad terminals—industry began to move from Westminster into the nearby cities. One such industry, however, took advantage of the situation. At a time when motor transport began to free the town from dependence on railroads—1917—the C. L. Smith Box Corporation was formed.

While the wooden box industry was steadily declining in New England, (cardboard becoming the standard crate material), C. L. Smith managed to hold his own. In spite of three disastrous fires—one in 1937, another five years later, and then in two years still another—each time the plant was rebuilt on a larger scale, taking advantage of more automatic machinery with each re-building.

The company owns a second mill in Weare, New Hampshire, and owns and leases its own timber land, doing a side-line business in lumber. It employs about twelve men permanently; the seasonal business of apple and vegetable boxes may run the number up to twenty-five or thirty at times.

Mr. Smith started his firm in partnership with a nephew, Edward Withington, who died soon after. After Mr. Withington's death, Mr. Smith ran the business alone until joined by his son, Byron C. Smith, in 1933. The senior Smith still remains in active control, assisted by his son who acts as treasurer. Modernization of machinery is still going forward, and the management feels the present outlook for the Eaton Street plant is optimistic.

YOUNG BROTHERS BOX COMPANY

Young Brothers, another lumber and wooden-box firm, was formed during World War II—in April 1943—by Ralph W. and Willis L. Young. Besides trucking lumber, they set up machinery in the elder brother's garage on Route 2 and began making boxes for gun barrels. The Youngs bought a portable sawmill in 1947, and in September 1952 built a permanent mill on Overlook Road, where today they produce all kinds of wooden boxes and saw lumber for building materials.

The Young Brothers' plant overlooks and is an indirect outgrowth of the old Goodridge mill at the foot of Bacon Street, in which their father, Wesley W. Young, was once a partner. This mill was built in 1894 by John C. Goodridge and Frank H. Battles. Three years later Goodridge bought out his partner and in 1898 added box manufacturing to the lumber business. After the death of his father in 1915, Fred A. Goodridge continued the business until a fire destroyed the mill in 1919.

In that same year Wesley W. Young and Clinton C. Houghton formed a partnership under the name of Goodridge Box Company and built a new shop on the site of the old one—using the same chimney, which stood intact after the fire. Fred A. Goodridge returned to the business in 1925, when he bought out Houghton's share. The mill continued to operate until 1943 when the senior Young retired.

ADVANCE COATINGS COMPANY

Recent years, with the diversification of industry and technology, have seen a great swing back to the small towns in the case of cer-

tain types of factory. How much this will affect Westminster is still unpredictable. But one such factory, albeit a small enterprise, is presently flourishing—the Advance Coatings Company.

This firm began with a traditional product: varnish for the furniture industry. Now it turns out a material unknown a few years ago, a coating designed for application to various papers and plastics.

The field was discovered when the plant, during the war, became engaged in coatings for wrappings on weapons and other military equipment. Peacetime expansion of new food-wrapping and similar materials led to the need for synthetic printing materials which could be applied to the wrappings.

The firm was established in 1935 by Russell P. Cook, a chemist. He was joined by Frederick W. Parks soon after, who retired in 1952. Mr. Cook died in 1954, leaving the business in the hands of his son, Benjamin A. Cook, present head of the firm. Other officials are Sidney R. Swift, Mrs. Rachel C. Lowe, Paul Woolacott, and Charles Page. Total personnel is now about twelve persons. The plant is a modern, one-story brick structure on Depot Road. Management is hopeful of a continued expansion.

GARDNER TRUST COMPANY

While this book is generally restricted to a period ending with the year 1958, mention must be made of certain important events overreaching that date. Of great significance to the town was the opening of the Westminster branch of the Gardner Trust Company, May 25, 1959.

The Gardner bank, which now has three other branches besides the Westminster one, began its history in Westminster, having been founded by Daniel C. Miles (brother of General Miles) in 1875. In 1894 John A. Dunn became president and the bank was moved to Gardner. There it continued to grow, and on the death of Mr. Dunn in 1919, Frank W. Fenno was advanced from cashier to president. Later he became chairman of the board of directors. Meanwhile the name had been changed from Westminster National Bank to Gardner Trust Company.

The new Westminster branch is located in the old Brick Store, where the original bank was first established. The building has

been elaborately modernized, but with traditional appearance, by Westminster contractor Victor Arcangeli's firm. In charge is Warren D. Ferguson, assisted by Mrs. Lydia Hawes. Businessmen of the area feel that the re-establishment of banking facilities in Westminster is another important step in the renaissance of small industry.

THE OLD MILL

Of Westminster's nine eating establishments, all except one are relatively modest in size. The Old Mill restaurant and cocktail lounge, together with its gift shop and terraces, would be an impressive venture in any part of the country. Built along a beautiful stream and overlooking a millpond, it is on Route 2A between Fitchburg and Gardner, about a mile from the center of Westminster.

While it maintains the highest standards in foods and service, it is said to have served no less than 238,607 meals in 1958. Nine separate dining rooms are operated, with a total employment of some hundred and seventy-five persons.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Foster, bought the Old Mill in 1946 from Miss Mary Keough who had operated it as a small teahouse for twenty-two summers. The Fosters opened it as a small restaurant with a staff of three. Fire demolished the building in 1947. Rebuilding began the same winter, the new building being a fine reproduction of the type of architecture employed in the original Raymond mill building built in 1761 by Phillip Bemis, Westminster's third settler.

Besides serving many local groups as an ideal setting for banquets and parties, clientele is drawn from all parts of the country. An immense tourist attraction, the restaurant might well be called, in certain respects, Westminster's most important industry.

Another institution which might properly be classified as an industry, since it is now commercially operated, is the Westminster Country Club. But as this began more as a club than a business, it is dealt with in Chapter Eleven.



THE CRACKER BAKERY



THE "OLD MILL"

OTHER ENTERPRISES

The Heywood *History*, Chapter XVI ("Industrial Pursuits and Enterprises"), describes three major industries operating when the book was written—two chair factories and a paper mill. But in a footnote, added just before going to press, the Nichols Brothers' chair concern is described as being moved to Gardner, and the Wyman paper mill as demolished to make way for the Fitchburg water-supply reservoir—leaving only the South Westminster chair plant of Artemas Merriam. (Merriam was then employing some seventy to eighty men.) Heywood foresees the end of chair manufacturing as the town's chief business.

Before the turn of the century, Heywood's fears had come true. The Merriam plant burned on October 8, 1897, and until the C. L. Smith box factory was built in 1917, there was no new industry of significance in the township. Throughout this period there were usually about half a dozen sawmills operating in various areas, Goodridge and Mather & Pierce being two of the larger ones. There were many small cider mills, a grist mill, and two or three blacksmith shops.

With the virtually complete decline of industry, the extensive water reserves of the township were acquired by outside interests. This was to have a major long-range effect on the town economy. The valuation book for 1912 shows the Nashua Reservoir Company assessed at over \$54,000; Wachusett Realty Trust at \$20,000; City of Fitchburg, just under \$20,000. The total, some \$94,000, was a little more than one eighth of the town's total assessed real estate.

The next-largest assessment of 1912 was levied on the street railway company owners—about \$70,000. Very few other real estate holdings of the period exceeded \$5,000. An exception was Eli H. Merriam, whose gristmill, sawmill and other properties came to some \$13,000.

AGRICULTURE

The first quarter of the century was a time of small farming, together with general employment of many residents in the nearby

centers of Gardner and Fitchburg. Nearly every homestead kept a few animals, total number of cattle listed for 1912 being about 650 head. (Today's figure is about 350 head.)

As of 1958, the agriculture of the town would seem to have no prospects for future expansion. It is likely that more and more of the remaining suitable land will be subdivided for residential development. *For a brief survey of farming in Westminster, we turn to a paper by Toivo W. Lamsa in the Historical Society files. A somewhat condensed version of his report follows:*

Although the basic factors of farming, in Westminster, as elsewhere, remain constant, the methods employed have seen and will continue to see change. The earliest settlers were complete in their environment; food and clothing were furnished by the land and the surplus was bartered for other needed items. But the nineteenth century changed this, and while farms decreased in number they became more efficient and productive through mechanization.

Westminster, surrounded by Fitchburg and Gardner, responded to the industrial growth of these centers, and gradually became a residential town. Today the town's few operating farms are specialized units, in contrast to the diversified family farm of the past. Where once land was cleared by men, horses and oxen, the bulldozer and tractor now ready the soil for intensive machine tillage and harvest. Greater production requires chemical fertilizers, certified seeds, new buildings for machinery and livestock, provision for power and light. The farmer must spend more and more time in the management of his business, in marketing, and even in political life.

Westminster farms have accepted the change. The cider mill at the Minott homestead, later the Kurikka farm, built to process local apples, is no more: cider mills and apples are no longer significant in today's farm picture. The once numerous farms in southern Westminster are now growing new houses and trees. The last operating dairy farm in that section, dating to Colonial times and later settled by Westminster's third Finnish farmer, Peter Kahkola, has succumbed to the change. Where once cows grazed golfers now find pleasure and exercise at the Westminster Country Club. The Roper farm, on Route 2A in the northeastern section, has been actively en-

gaged in farming for the greatest number of years. Other remaining farms are relative newcomers.

Yet those who have stayed in farming, augmented by new settlers of northern European extraction, have been important in Massachusetts agriculture. The Milk Control Act of 1934, which stabilized the dairy industry, received the support and aid of Westminster farmers. Finnish farmers established the United Co-operative Farmers, Inc., which developed out of their blueberry production. It has since numbered many firsts in its record in the organization of poultry operations and bulk feed distribution.

The late Ernest Vieweg played a prominent part in the growth of the farmers' legislative arm—the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation. He also helped establish the now-defunct Tri-City Dairy Corporation in Fitchburg, which centralized milk processing when the pasteurization law was passed in the 1930's. The North Worcester County Dairyman's Association, Inc., of 1956 grew out of a meeting in Westminster Town Hall, and has become part of the influential state-wide association to further the aim and needs of dairy farmers. And all this has taken place within the last half century.

Local manufacturing still employs some sixty-five to seventy Westminsterites; not such a small number when one considers the gloomy forecasts of fifty years ago. Agriculture still employs forty-five to fifty, counting only those farms large enough to be considered self-contained and healthy enterprises.

But the greatest local employment by far, probably totaling some four hundred persons, comes from services and enterprises of recent origin in two major fields—those filling the needs of a largely suburban dwelling area, and those meeting demands of heavy through-traffic on the highways.

This diversity of activity, together with the employment of so many citizens in the nearby cities to which they commute, presents a healthy and well-balanced aspect. One gets the impression that the town is a busy place, and a place of rapid growth and development, at this period in its history. But the growth is diversified—not to be

compared with the sudden expansions seen in communities where very large industrial plants suddenly appear.

A directory of Westminster business enterprises and professional people is to be found in the Appendix.

CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

THE VARIOUS CLUBS of the town must have pleased William S. Heywood at the time he was compiling his massive history in the 1890's. He wrote, "Almost every human interest, not strictly personal and private, has been represented here in some organized form."

His was a day when the small town still relied almost entirely on its own resources for entertainment. Not until after World War I did the clubs of a chiefly social nature give way to those of the more "civic" type.

The sociably inclined of Westminster, it would seem, need seldom spend an evening at home whiling away the time with a game of solitaire. Even the following impressive list of alternatives is probably not entirely complete; to describe those organizations in any detail would require a separate volume.

ORGANIZATIONS, 1893-1959

American Legion and Auxiliary
Bands
Boy Scouts
Choraliers
Civil Defense
Country Club
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Extension Service
Farmers' and Mechanics' Association
Farmers' Co-operative
Firemen's Auxiliary
4H Club
Girl Scouts
Grand Army of the Republic

Grange
 Great Books Discussion Club
 Historical Society
 Improvement Society
 Lions Club
 Men's Club
 Mineral Club
 P.T.A.
 Rice Meadow Fly-Fishing Club
 Rotary Club
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
 Square and Compass Club
 Tophet Fish & Game Club
 V.F.W. and Auxiliary
 Westminster Sportsmen's Club
 Woman's Club
 Woman's Relief Corps
 Westminster Academy and H.S. Alumni Ass'n
 Youth Center

Before the last annual Westminster Cattle Show and Fair was held in 1927, it had long been the big event of the year for many residents. It was supported largely by a local club, formed in 1878, called the Farmers' and Mechanics' Association. This group, in its heyday, met at least once a month and put on annual "farmers' suppers" and other entertainments. After a long period of increasing inactivity, the club was liquidated in 1934. Its capital (some three hundred dollars) and all its equipment was donated to local Grange 203.

Another group flourishing over the same general period, but not formally disbanded until 1949, was the Westminster Improvement Society. One of its major projects for the betterment of the town was the building of sidewalks. For many years the ladies of this club served a dinner on Town Meeting Day. Before there was easy access to larger towns and radio, movies, and other distractions, the club provided valuable evenings of music and entertainment. On its disbanding, twenty-five dollars were given to the V.F.W. post. The day of the new veterans' organizations, P. T. A., Boy and

Girl Scouts, and the "service clubs" had dawned; the old-time social club had become only a memory.

There have long been many active lodge members in Westminster, but these until recently were all dependent upon one or another lodge in Gardner or Fitchburg. In 1955 the Masons set up their own Square and Compass Club. Erick Westerfors was the first president.

Perhaps no organization has played a greater part in New England rural history than the Grange. In 1894, Westminster Grange No. 203 was formed by state deputy Elmer D. Howe with thirty-three charter members. The practical co-operative measures which were part of its program failed to develop to any extent, but social betterment and entertainment have continued actively. During the last World War the group sold bonds and stamps amounting to some seven thousand, six hundred and twenty-five dollars and did much other valuable work. (*Details of the many Grange contributions to the war effort can be found in notes of Florence B. Rice, Master.*)

According to an account of the Grange written in 1954 by Fred G. Parcher (then a member for over fifty years), peak membership was reached in 1925, with more than two hundred belonging.

MASTERS FROM 1894 TO 1954

Arno E. Hurd, Wickliffe H. Waterhouse, John Minott, William W. Sterlin, Fred G. Parcher, Sherman G. Rice, Frank W. Derby, Hervey W. Bell, Robert O. Hurd, Lucius W. French, Arthur W. Nye, Harold Towle, S. Edwin Story, Kirwan J. Bilson, Allen Holmes, Everett Lacey, Charles Warner, Edwin Bilson, Robert Luoma, Thayer H. French, Albert Holmes

LADIES

Mildred L. Nye, Clara Eaton, Anna B. Terrill, Mabel W. Story, Florence B. Rice

P.T.A.

A Parent-Teachers Association was first formed in 1938, Mrs. Kirwan Bilson, Sr., President. Because of the war and other factors, it was discontinued. In 1947 it was re-activated with Mrs. John

Hobbs as President; Mrs. Porter W. Dawley, Vice-President; Miss Barbara Tomoloni, Secretary; Parker Kemp, Treasurer. The impressive list of its main achievements in one decade follows:

Soup program, 1946
 Annual Halloween Parties, 1948
 Year-end parties, 1949
 Awards, 1950
 Gymnasium mats, 1950
 Athletic Letters, 1951
 Microphones
 Refreshments, volunteer workers on
 school addition
 Museum of Science donation
 Youth Center
 Extension courses
 Coffee urn, cups and saucers, etc.
 Projectors and screens
 School band uniforms
 Mirrors, teacher's rooms, 1952
 Playground Fund—Merry-go-rounds,
 swings, skating rink, 1953
 School Library started, 1954
 Scholarship awards, home economics
 industrial arts, 1957
 Dancing classes, 1958

SCOUTS

The first Girl Scout Troop was formed in 1923, led by Captain Barbara Fenno, Lieutenant Harriet Smith, Lieutenant Doris Gilson, 2nd Lieutenant Helen Dawley. A recent account lists two hundred members with sixteen leaders and twenty-one troop committee members; this includes three Brownie troops.

The Boy Scouts are believed to have started here about 1915. No records were kept, however, until 1922, when the troop came under

the sponsorship of the Congregational Church and a group of interested citizens. The William S. Miller Post, American Legion became the sponsors in 1941. In 1943 Cub Scout and Explorer troops were organized. Today the Boy Scouts are active and well-staffed, and the boys themselves have developed an excellent camping ground at Hager Park.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Westminster Historical Society, under whose auspices this book appears, was founded on October 25, 1921. Its founding brought into being the town's first organized program of local historical study. Among those instrumental in its organization were Frank W. Fenno, Mrs. Edward R. Miller and Miss Sarah F. Greene, town librarian, who had urged that an agency be formed to assemble and preserve records and objects of historical value. The Society's first officers were Charles F. Giles, president; Frank W. Derby, vice-president; Mrs. Miller, secretary; and Miss Sarah Jane Wyman, treasurer. Meetings were held in the Library, with papers read by various members and occasional guest speakers.

In 1952, after a few years of little activity (several of the founders had died), the Society was roused to renewed action under the leadership of Mrs. Florence B. Rice. Following her as president were Mrs. Irene F. Rice, Harry N. Howard, Miss Doris M. Fenno and Mrs. Mabel W. Story. The Historical Society has maintained a membership of about thirty, and was very active in the events of the 200th Anniversary year.

THE COUNTRY CLUB

The Westminster Country Club was started in June 1955 by three men: Dr. John C. Mercer of Westminster, Albert Leblanc and Clarence Gagne of Fitchburg.

A few of the older country clubs of New England are still exclusive, wealthy affairs which bring to mind terms such as "the country-club set." In recent years a greater number of them have become more or less commercially operated. Membership is drawn

not from any particular social group, but from those sharing some common interest, such as golf. This seems to be the case with the Westminster club. Daytime activity centers around an excellent nine-hole golf course. Evening parties, reunions and dances can be held by various organizations, on making arrangements with the manager. There is a modern kitchen and a large room for dining and dancing, attached to the original farmhouse now converted into locker rooms with showers.

Recently Dr. Mercer and Mr. Gagne sold out their interests to Mr. Leblanc, who with his family now operates the whole project. The club is beautifully situated a short distance outside the town on Ellis Road.

VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS

The first of Westminster's two present-day veterans' organizations came into being soon after World War I. Westminster Post 174 of the American Legion was chartered August 16, 1919. Its charter members were Dr. George Mossman (Commander), Henry L. Curtis, Roger Battles, Guy L. Miller, Arthur K. Rice, Harold A. Towle, Roland C. Houghton, Ray Durling, Henry H. Miller, Raymond Stockwell, Emory J. Raymond, and Benjamin H. Page.

A unit auxiliary was formed on September 1, 1920, with Mrs. Mary E. Miller as president and with thirty-five charter members. The aims of the auxiliary have been to "assist the American Legion in all its projects, rehabilitation for veterans in homes and hospitals, and all measures for community betterment."

In 1933 the local unit was renamed the "William S. Miller Post 174" in honor of a Westminster boy who gave his life overseas. In that same year the Universalist Society gave the Post a ninety-nine year lease on its old church building on Main Street. In 1945 the two remaining members of the Universalist Society, the Reverend Lucy Milton Giles and Mrs. Laura M. Miller, presented the building to the Legion outright.

The Legion has always been active in matters of civic interest. It manned an air-raid station on Academy Hill during World War II, and has done much to assist the Boy Scouts.

The town's other veterans' organization of today, the Douglas E.

Hicks Post No. 7389, Veterans of Foreign Wars, was founded in 1946; it is also very active and has sponsored many projects of benefit to the town. A building was acquired and renovated by the members in 1953, providing a comfortable meeting hall for the activities of the post. Membership is nearly 100. The Douglas E. Hicks Auxiliary was formed in May 1947 with eighteen charter members, nine of whom are still active. Its first president was Alice Howe.

Veterans' organizations stemming from the Civil War were an active part of the social structure of Westminster for some years after 1893. William S. Heywood gives an account of the Joseph P. Rice Post 69, Grand Army of the Republic, and detailed records of its activities have been preserved in the files of the Historical Society. It was not dissolved until September 8, 1928, when there were still two members remaining, Hobart Raymond and Alonzo Wheeler.

An adjunct to the G.A.R. was the Joseph P. Rice Post 113 of the Woman's Relief Corps, founded in 1890 with sixty-four members. Objectives were the assistance of Union veterans and their dependents. The Relief Corps also did a great deal of active work in Memorial Day exercises and in the care of veterans' graves. It disbanded in 1943, all Union veterans having died, and the newer organizations of the town having taken over most of the functions that the Relief Corps once performed.

Also mentioned in the Heywood *History* was Cyrus K. Miller Camp 101, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, which at one time had a membership of fifty. Organized in 1889 with Frank E. Miller as Captain, the Camp has continued to support patriotic and civic projects. Although not so active today, it is still in possession of its charter and has twenty-one members.

The Priscilla Alden Tent 51 of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War was formed on September 1, 1911, with Mrs. Viola N. Burpee as president. The group supported the work of other patriotic organizations until its disbandment in 1947.

OTHER GROUPS

A Youth Center was begun in 1949, primarily as an agency aimed at reducing teen-age delinquency. Its original membership of forty

has grown to two hundred and sixty-two, with a paid director. The effectiveness of this work is shown by a relatively low incidence of youthful crime and misconduct.

The Worcester County Extension Service has brought the housewives of the town helpful and practical ideas in homemaking. It was begun in 1938, under the direction of the Reverend Lucy Milton Giles.

Westminster has always had occasional small musical groups, both instrumental and vocal. But in comparatively recent times there was no lasting organized group until 1933, when the Westminster Boys' Band was formed. George Talcott of Fitchburg conducted it and also gave lessons. He is well known in the region as a tireless and talented musician. This band became a featured town institution, and often performed for neighboring communities. Later the present Westminster School Band was started, consisting of some twenty-five members and led by Mrs. Gertrude Sullivan. A popular singing group was organized in 1954 by members of the Women's Club—Mrs. Florence Grimes, Mrs. Gardner Bent, Mrs. Charlotte Sunne, and Mrs. Bertha Ahlin. The singers are called the Choraliers and have continued to provide programs for various gatherings, both locally and in nearby towns.

Sportsmen's clubs have long been a part of Westminster life, and today there are no less than three separate groups helping to promote conservation and sport in the town—the Tophet Fish and Game Club, Rice Meadow Fly-fishing Club, and the Westminster Sportsmen's Club.

The Woman's Club, formed here in 1953 with Mrs. Frank Onischuk as president, soon became accepted by the National Federation of Women's Clubs, and has continued to flourish in the promotion of worthy and cultural projects. Its first project was the water question of 1954 in which the club took an active interest. Presidents have been Mrs. Erick Westerfors, Mrs. John A. Gardner, and Mrs. Herbert B. Seeley.

The Firemen's Auxiliary is also active both as a social group and an aid to the fire department.

Recent years have seen the development in Westminster of an organization which grew out of the international situation. Civil Defense began in 1951 under Walter Wintturi and has been led

since 1957 by Arthur Hunt. There are thirteen auxiliary police, a radio communications class of twenty-five has received certificates, and thirty-five persons participated in a radioactivity class. A nurses' corps and a hospital have also been created.

The group long known as the "Finnish Co-operative" is an important economic factor of the town. Actually its proper name is the Westminster Co-operative Farmers Inc., and its membership is not limited to Finnish people, though they predominate and were instrumental in founding it.

For some twenty-five years the Co-operative bought and operated farm machinery, bought farm supplies at low prices for its members, and otherwise promoted the business of agriculture. While it is still active, it has in recent years become more a social entity than an economic force.

Another organization, which is no longer in existence but was prominent in the early years of the century, was the Westminster Academy and High School Alumni Association. This was a large and active group which promoted yearly reunions from 1884 until the late 1920's.

Taken altogether, the many organizations of Westminster reflect a very high degree of awareness on the part of the citizens of their civic and cultural responsibilities. And in closing this chapter, it seems important to stress the significance of the large number of organizations and clubs as a whole, rather than the details of any one. For it is to the credit of all of these groups that Westminster has so successfully welded many people of differing racial backgrounds into a unified society, and, in spite of recent rapid growth, has preserved very largely its pleasant original atmosphere and town spirit.

A PROFILE OF GENERAL NELSON A. MILES

THE TOWN'S MOST FAMOUS NATIVE SON—this description in the earlier *History* statement concerning General Nelson A. Miles. Though in 1893 the Spanish War and other activities wherein this unique man was to play a major role were still in the future, he was already the best-known general on active duty in the United States Army.

When he died in 1925, at eighty-six, the Washington, D.C., May 15 AP dispatch began: "Lieut. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, nestor of American Army leaders, premier Indian Fighter, diplomat and author, has taken up the Long Trail. . . ." The impressive obituary, printed throughout the country, recounted his life in considerable detail. Only a President would have been accorded more space.

". . . One of the most distinguished and picturesque leaders in American military history . . . was one of the 'boy generals' of the Civil War. At the age of 25 he had risen from the rank of 1st. Lieutenant of volunteers to that of Major General, and was commanding an entire army division of 25,000 men.

"Gen. Miles, who at the peak of his career was commanding General of the Army, was one of the few high-ranking officers of the regular establishment to attain his position without West Point training and . . . of the still smaller group . . . with rank of Lieut. General."

Today, ask a student of the Civil War about General Miles, and you will get one story; ask a student of the Indian Campaigns, and you will get another. Anyone who remembers much about the war with Spain will give you still a third version. But few people, even in his native region, can place the General correctly in the long segment of history in which he played so many roles.

And so, though not strictly within the scope of this book, it is interesting to review briefly General Miles's life before 1893.

Born in Westminster April 8, 1839, and educated for the most part in the local schools, he went to Boston at eighteen, intending to continue his studies. Probably because of lack of money, he soon gave up school for a clerical job.

At the outbreak of the Civil War young Miles was just twenty-two and a member of a Roxbury, Massachusetts, militia outfit. He came by his military interest naturally—his father had served in the army, grandfather and great-grandfather both fought in the Revolution. The family was descended from Rev. John Myles, "fighting parson" of King Philip's War, 1675.

After a brief training with a French officer then in Boston, Miles was commissioned a lieutenant and was sent with his unit to the front. He had taken his savings of one thousand dollars and borrowed some two thousand more, to pay the militiamen under his command—because of the unsettled politics of the day, no funds had been provided—and it is said he was never reimbursed.

Throughout the war the young officer was in the thick of the fighting in some thirty battles. He was promoted rapidly until he reached the acting rank of Major General. Quite seriously wounded on four different occasions, he received many citations for bravery and leadership.

Just after the assassination of Lincoln, Miles ran into the first of the political embroilments which were to become frequent during the rest of his life. Ordered to arrest Jefferson Davis, the former Confederate president, Miles was accused of cruelty by Southern statesmen. It was said Davis was being "kept in irons" and badly mistreated. Miles was not intimidated by the charges. President Johnson had given orders to take no chances with Davis; it was believed there was a vast plot to wipe out several Union leaders, and the shooting of Lincoln had been only the first step. Davis was later released, unharmed apparently, and died of old age twenty-two years afterward.

Recommissioned a colonel in the regular army, Miles for a time was engaged in reconstruction in the North Carolina area. Here he became known as an able administrator. He made something of a name for himself as an outspoken and determined foe of the many corrupt politicians of the period.

In 1870 Miles was sent into the wilderness of the West to begin service in the Indian campaigns which were to occupy his next twenty years. Again he rose rapidly; he soon became Brigadier and then Major General.

Periodicals of the day were kept well supplied with the exploits of "the great Indian Fighter," as Miles became known throughout the world. His adversaries included Crazy Horse, Lamé Deer, Spotted Eagle, Elk Horn, Broad Road, Natchez, Gerónimo, and Sitting Bull. Two young officers under his command were later to become famous generals also—Anson Mills and Leonard Wood.

Millions of words were written about just one of Miles's more colorful expeditions. Four small girls, known as "the Germain sisters," were taken captive by a warring tribe after the massacre of their parents. After a long chase—the Hollywood of a later world would never outdo it for thrills and action—two of the children were rescued.

The little girls were given every attention by officers' wives at an army post. A photograph was taken showing the girls primly posed in formal dresses. General Miles wrote a note on the back of the photograph reassuring the two sisters still held by the Indians, and an Indian scout managed to deliver it to them. Sometime later they too were rescued, and the four orphans became the wards of Miles until they were of age.

Another famed exploit involved a forced march in weather that was said to have reached forty below zero. This ended with the capture of Chief Joseph and the finish of the war with the Nez Percés.

During the opening of the West, Miles found time, on lonely army outposts, to develop a lucid and finished style of writing. He became passionately concerned with the future welfare of the tribes he had been forced to defeat in battle, and began to publish articles on the subject. It has been said that these writings, in some measure, led to the founding of the Carlisle School for American Indians.

Miles also became greatly interested in land development in the Great Plains. Sometimes called "Father of Irrigation and Reclamation," his essays on the subject were intelligent spadework for the vast government projects of later years.

He had also somehow managed to find time to become a family man. In 1868 he was married to Mary Hoyt Sherman, niece of Gen-

eral Sherman. The children of this union were both destined to follow the Miles tradition—the daughter as wife of an army officer, the son as a Major General.

In 1894 the Chicago railroad strike aroused and alarmed the whole nation. Miles was sent to settle the strike. In a sense, it was a situation impossible to conquer: on the one hand there was a revolt of considerable violence, on the other hand inadequate legislation and corrupt politics. Yet General Miles managed to restore order, and if he made new enemies, he also made powerful friends. The following year President Cleveland made him commanding general of the United States Army.

In this position the General soon showed he had no intention of remaining a figurehead. He was outspoken, much in the manner of a Billy Mitchell, in his published criticisms of interference in army matters by Congress and the administration. And as a result, he was sent abroad where he could not follow up his desired reforms. He was observer at the Turko-Grecian war, and was a representative of the United States at Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1897.

At the outset of war with Spain, Miles's political enemies could not dislodge him from his position; perhaps they did not quite dare. But they did succeed in keeping him in Washington, which was not to his liking.

Finally, at the close of the war, Miles was sent to Santiago, and later to Puerto Rico, in direct command of the army of occupation. At the occasion of the formal ceremony of surrender, Nelson A. Miles, by one small act, revealed a trait of character perhaps more impressive now than at the time. We may think of several similar surrender scenes of later wars, complete with newsreel camera-crews. We may think, without much difficulty, of several generals who did not hesitate to play the lead in these tableaux. But Commander-in-Chief Miles stepped back and allowed another general—who had been longer at the front—to accept the surrender.

When, at sixty, Miles was given the permanent rank of Lieutenant General, only six men in our army—during the century and a quarter of its existence—had been given this honor. Still, when he was retired because of age (sixty-four) in 1903, he had again quarreled with the administration, and he was given no commendations nor any of the usual honors of retirement.

This seems an incredible insult to have received at the hands of

Theodore Roosevelt, as seen from the vantage point of today. For Miles had practiced, throughout the Civil War, the Indian Campaigns and the Spanish War, perhaps more than any other officer in history, exactly the precise hard-hitting tactics so loudly embodied in the Rough Rider's own philosophy.

Yet Roosevelt had sent Miles abroad on extended surveys of foreign armies in order to keep him away from Washington. (Miles had been reprimanded for taking the side of the Dewey report in the Schley case.)

Ironically, both Miles and Roosevelt were later to be completely frustrated in parallel ambitions. Both importuned Wilson, in World War I, to be allowed to take an active part. Both were broken-hearted when all their pleas were of no avail.

After the Spanish War, it was Admiral Dewey who came in for the major share of hero-worship. Admiral Dewey made the ideal popular figure, as revealed by the many books and popular articles of the day written about him. His easy-going manner and ready sociability were in direct contrast to the personality of General Miles. The General's letters and published speeches all are stamped with his immense reserve, his rigid formality and dignity, and above all, his modesty. But Miles was dedicated to the army, and in its defense he was often belligerently outspoken. He excoriated politicians and grafters, and he possessed a weapon many feared—his ability to write.

General Miles's first book was published in 1896 by the Werner Company in Chicago under a formidable title even for that day:

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS
OF GENERAL NELSON A. MILES
Embracing a Brief View of the Civil War
Or
From New England to the Golden Gate
and
The Story of His Indian Campaigns with
Comments on Exploration, Development and Progress
of Our Great Western Empire

This large, handsome 590-page volume was illustrated not only with many of the incomparable oils of Frederic Remington, but

also with a wealth of drawings and sketches by other artists. It is a unique and fascinating chronicle of the opening of the West. There is much firsthand information, written with sympathy and understanding, about the American Indian tribes of the period.

A later book appeared under the contrastingly brief title *Serving the Republic*.^{*} It is a shorter work, unillustrated, and more in the nature of a conventional autobiography.

The General never seemed to lose any of his enormous energy, even when well past eighty. After retirement he became Adjutant General of the Massachusetts Militia, forerunner of the National Guard. He was given honorary degrees from Harvard, Brown and Colgate.

Never did he hesitate to name names whenever he thought his beloved army was being mistreated. There were many scandals in his time concerning faulty equipment and food, even condemned or putrefied meat, sold to the quartermasters by unscrupulous dealers and manufacturers. And when it came to sheer, rock-ribbed independence, Miles had a vast headstart on those later generals we think of as truculent or headstrong.

For Miles not only fought bitterly with one administration or with one president, he quarreled with President Cleveland and his War Secretary, Lamont; he quarreled with McKinley and Alger; he quarreled with Roosevelt and Root; and lastly, over the question of returning to service, with Wilson.

Throughout his long and crowded life, Miles always returned to Westminster and visited his brother and sister whenever he could. On many occasions he was expected to be a guest of honor or a featured speaker, and he felt it was his duty to comply if possible.

He became an honorary member of the town's Historical Society, and took a keen interest in the library, where his portrait and many valuable relics of his life are now displayed. The painting shows a stocky, handsome man with a white mustache; the face at first glance seems somewhat austere, with its Roman nose and square jaw; but the artist has also caught the kindness and understanding of the man beneath the military bearing.

Why has so little been written about this extraordinary personality since his death? Perhaps it is because he led three lives in one—Civil War hero, Indian fighter, Spanish War commander—and the

^{*} Harper & Brothers, New York, 1911.

latter phase concerned a war that was to become unpopular, and relatively unimportant, to the public at large. Perhaps it was in part because he wrote, and spoke, in the somewhat stilted and formal manner that went quickly out of style even before his death. And beyond doubt the great concussions of two World Wars obscured the leading figures of the preceding period.

By 1925 the General had survived his wife by many years. Still in robust health, it was his yearly custom to take his grandchildren to the circus. (Picture the old Indian Fighter explaining the Wild West Show to the delighted children!) It was in the packed seats under the big tent that he fell dead of a heart attack. Mrs. Coolidge, wife of the President, was also in the audience; but she did not know, until after the show was over, the identity of the old man who had been quietly carried outside.

WAR YEARS AND MILITARY RECORDS

ON READING THROUGH FILES of the Historical Society in the peaceful year of 1958, one feels that the mass of material on wartime activities is very impressive. That such a small town could have done so much, given so much, now appears remarkable. Perhaps Westminster was not more patriotic than many other places—in any case, it is hard to see how its record could have been excelled.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Of the Spanish War—first to come within the scope of this book—it may be said that very few Americans were involved compared to later conflicts. Westminster must have sent more men than many a larger town has on its rolls. The Massachusetts military archives show the following, besides the famous native son, General Miles, who led the army to Cuba:

Sgt. George D. Buckley
Pvt. Alfred W. Eaton
Pfc. Carl A. Raymond

Pvt. William H. Stockwell
Pvt. Charles W. Taylor
Pvt. George B. Taylor

Stockwell enlisted from Gardner, but lived in Westminster and was a member of the V.F.W. until his death in 1956. He served as chief marshal of the Memorial Day exercises for fifty years.

There is always much difficulty in compiling Honor Rolls for individual towns, even in later times when records are better kept. Certain men enlist far from home, or in towns of temporary residence. In many cases there is an open question as to the town to which a soldier should be accredited.

The above-mentioned seven names are found on a bronze tablet

set on a small boulder, near the Town Hall. But in an account of the 50th Anniversary of Sons of Union Veterans in 1939, we find the following: "In 1898 there were a number of members of this Camp [Cyrus K. Miller Camp 101] who enlisted in the Spanish American War. Brother Carl Raymond enlisted in the 1st Regular Volunteers and went to Porto Rico, Brother Dudley Towle in the 6th Mass. and also went to Porto Rico and Brother Henry Mirick in the 2nd and went to Sandiago."

It would appear that Towle did not come to Westminster until after the war. Later wars were to see many of that name listed from Westminster. Mirick's family were summer residents.

WORLD WAR I

During the quarter-century following the Spanish War, the town changed very little in population. Yet by the end of World War I, according to the local Honor Rolls, sixty-two Westminster men had joined their country's services.

WORLD WAR I

Battles, Roger W.	Haskell, Alfred A.
Barrett, Ernest T.	Havener, Daniel W.
Ballou, Frank E.	Hetu, J. Henry
Bell, Hervey W.	Hicks, A. Charles
Bell, C. Robert	Hicks, Ernest C.
Cannon, Aldron A.	Hodge, Charles
Cannon, George F.	Holmes, Thomas H.
Cannon, Robert	Houghton, Roland C.
*Cannon, Rollin M.	Howard, Harry N.
Clark, Ralph W.	Hurd, Arno E. Jr.
Curtis, Henry L.	LaFortune, Arthur
Derby, Paul E.	LaFortune, Edward
Durling, Ray K.	LaFortune, Ernest
Eaton, Arthur G.	Matson, Carl W.
Fugere, Emile	McKay, William
Hanks, Richard T.	Merriam, Charles S.
Harris, Leslie E.	Merriam, Spenser H.

* Killed in action

Merriam, Winfred E.	Sargent, Chester E.
Miller, Guy L.	Sargent, John A.
Miller, Henry H.	Sprague, Streeter G.
Miller, John J.	Stockwell, Raymond I.
Miller, Walter A.	Stockwell, Roy W.
*Miller, William S.	Sylvester, Leroy H.
Mossman, George, M.D.	Towle, Charles D.
Page, Benjamin H.	Towle, Harold A.
Parilla, Emil	Towle, Laurence C.
Perkins, Thomas J.	Townsend, Prescott
Raymond, Emory J.	Whitney, Joseph F.
Rice, Arthur K.	Whitney, Richard A.
Robbins, Wayland	Withington, Arthur E.
Sargent, Carl A.	Withington, Harry E.

With so many of their boys in the service, Westminster home folks gave the war effort their unstinting contributions. By 1917, Liberty Loans and War Savings Stamps were heavily subscribed, and an expanded Red Cross and other wartime agencies initiated.

Women of the town started their own organization, called the Special Aid Society, in May. Officers: the Reverend Lucy Milton Giles, President; Mrs. Edith M. Griffin, Vice-president; Mrs. Laura M. Miller, Secretary; Miss Ada Mossman, Treasurer.

Until disbanded November 11, 1918, this group met weekly and produced over a thousand articles for the men overseas. Funds were raised from drives and benefits, to which the town added an official appropriation of \$1000 for war purposes. Christmas boxes went to all Westminster men in service, and surplus articles were given to the Red Cross.

WORLD WAR II

By the advent of World War II a very pronounced change had taken place in Westminster. Subsequent to recovery from the depression, there had been an influx of new families throughout the town. Some of these had reclaimed the old farms. Some engaged in various other local occupations, while probably the majority of

* Killed in action

the men commuted to nearby industrial centers. The following 221 names, taken from the Honor Roll of World War II, plainly show a large number of residents with north-European ancestry, together with many names of French, Italian and other derivations. Here as elsewhere in the nation, the new settlers hastened to the defense of their country.

HONOR ROLL—WORLD WAR II

Aalto, Wilho S.	Charbonneau, Fred
Adams, Charles P.	Chatigny, Walter E.
Adams, Kenneth O.	Clark, Harold D.
Aho, Arvo	Conant, Richard H.
Aiken, Gilbert F.	Dunn, Paul E., M.D.
Arcangeli, Dante	Dunn, Paul W.
Arcangeli, Giocondo	Eaton, Corliss
Arcangeli, Victor	Engman, George E.
Archer, Aubrey St. C.	Fenno, Frank W., Jr.
Baker, Chester J.	Fogg, Norman W.
Balzer, Rudolph G.	French, Marshall R.
Barthel, Leon P.	Friberg, Arthur
Bates, Earl	Friberg, Frank F.
Beaulieu, Priscilla	Friberg, Paul A.
Beauregard, Roland J.	Gage, Franklin B.
Bevis, Dana L.	Gage, Lester
Bilson, Kirwan A.	Gage, William S.
Boucher, Alfred J.	Gagnon, Hector H.
Boucher, Robert J.	Gallant, Alvin A.
Braks, Frank J.	Gates, Willard
Braks, Klaus L.	Gerzadowicz, Anthony C.
Braks, Tauno F.	Gilliland, Eugene F.
Brooks, James V.	Goguen, Alvida Y.
Bruno, Edward	Goguen, Doris
Carlson, Aili	Gosselin, Anna
Carpenter, Bruce	Grahn, Donald
Carpenter, Harry D.	Grant, James P.
Carpenter, Howard A.	Hakkila, Raymond F.
Chalmers, Harold E.	Havener, Robert A.
	Hayton, Barbara

- Heisson, Ivar J.
Hicks, Lawrence M.
Hicks, Raefield M.
Hill, Richard
Hines, Everett
Hokkanen, Paul O.
Holm, Arthur V.
Holmes, Arthur E.
Holmes, Floyd T.
Hurd, Roy E.
Husari, Andrew
Innerasky, Herbert M.
Jaaskalainen, Eino
Jamsa, William J.
Janhunen, Otto A.
Johnson, Raymond A.
Kahkola, Eli P.
Kangas, Leo. J.
Karvonen, Ellen I.
Karvonen, Oiva E.
Kelty, Lester J.
Kinnari, Waino K.
Knight, Calvin G.
Kujanpaa, Paul W.
Kurikka, Einar A.
Laine, Armas A.
Lanoue, Wilfred H., Jr.
Laughton, Herbert H.
Leavenworth, Allen L.
Leavenworth, Gordon P.
Leavenworth, Robert P.
LeClair, Edward J.
Leikkanen, Weikko W.
LeMieur, Benjamin F.
LeMieur, Flora A.
LeMieur, Henry E.
Lombard, Vincent A.
Luoma, Robert J.
Luoma, Thomas E.
Luomala, Eero O.
MacAloney, William B., Jr.
MacConologue, John J.
Maki, Eino E.
Maki, Toivo E.
Maki, Toivo K.
Manninen, Eino H.
Mansur, Carl H.
Mansur, Roy C.
Marsh, Leonard W.
Mason, Robert C.
Mattson, Arthur T.
Mayranen, Wilho W.
Merriam, Anne
Merriam, Arthur E.
Merriam, Charles R.
Merriam, Charlotte
Medlin, Ralph E.
Miller, Adelbert P.
Miller, Richard R.
Minkkinen, George W.
Moore, Robert
Morse, Howard A.
Muhlbach, Walter L.
Muhonen, E. Edwin
Muhonen, Harold
Nappila, Tauno K.
Nappari, Waino
Nelson, Albert
Newcombe, Douglas P.
Niemi, Eugene E.
Niemi, George J.
Niemi, Onni W.
Nikki, Urpo
Noble, Thomas F.
Norris, William H.
Nygard, Wilho K.

- Ogilvie, Robert
 O'Hearn, Daniel J.
 Ojala, John, Jr.
 Page, Edward H.
 Parnanen, William
 Parviainen, Eino C.
 Pesola, Neilo M.
 Peterson, Onni J.
 Pettingell, Donald V.
 Rameau, Ernest E.
 Raymond, Eldredge M.
 Reed, Charles O.
 Reed, Earle L.
 Reynolds, Charles S.
 Reynolds, Kenneth
 Rivers, George
 Robillard, Aime J.
 Robillard, Albert J.
 Robillard, Wilfred J.
 Roiha, Armas A.
 Roper, Harold J.
 Rossner, Albert G.
 Sakkinen, John
 Sakkinen, William H.
 Sargent, Carl A.
 Sargent, Chester C.
 Sargent, Chester E.
 Savilampi, Eino O.
 Savola, Arne
 Shimkunas, Steven J.
 Siegle, Richard W.
 Siitonen, Harry W.
 Sivula, Matti W.
 Skorko, Andrew P.
 Skorko, Benedict A.
 Skorko, Charles S.
 Steinberg, Leupold
 Stevenson, Hazel I.
 Stevenson, Roland C.
 Strom, Sigfrid H.
 Sunne, Walter H., Jr.
 Sunne, Wayne A.
 Sutela, Eino
 Sutela, Frederick E.
 Terrill, Edward R.
 Terrill, Robert H.
 Thomas, George
 Towle, Calvin H.
 Towle, Chester M.
 Towle, Donald E.
 Towle, Harold A., Jr.
 Towle, Warren W.
 Trudell, Arthur F.
 Tuuri, Eugene W.
 Tuuri, Tenho O.
 Tuomi, Lempi H.
 Vaicuilis, Frank J.
 Vaicuilis, Leo J.
 Vieweg, Herman A.
 Vincent, Hermon C.
 Wainio, William W.
 Walker, Harry W.
 Walker, Leo
 Walker, Sidney
 Wallace, Raymond B.
 Waronen, Allen A.
 Wasara, Reino M.
 Welles, Charles S.
 Whitney, Gordon B.
 Wilen, Toivo A.
 Wilson, Ernest C.
 Winter, Howard W.
 Wintturi, Harry B.
 Wintturi, Helvi I.
 Wintturi, Walter W.
 Wood, James L.
 Young, Ralph E.
 Wasara, Lauri V.

KILLED IN ACTION

Darling, Edwin	Ilves, Paul A.
Friberg, Wayne W.	Nelson, Edmond O.
Gilliland, William F.	Nye, Wendell A.
Hicks, Douglas E.	Sakkinen, Urho

Patriotism was equally evident on the home front. A ration board was set up, bond drives organized, and a unit of the State Guard began training. James Murray was commissioned Lieutenant of the Guard. The Town voted one thousand dollars for uniforms and equipment (part of which was later refunded).

Red Cross, defense activities, and scrap collections saw nearly every person in town, even the children, playing some part in what many felt would be a final war to end wars.

Physically the war did not affect Westminster. No war plants or military installations were located here. It was the postwar building boom which was to bring the changes, rather than the war itself.

As for the citizens, they were no less occupied than elsewhere, answering the call for war-labor in the nearby cities of Gardner, Fitchburg and Worcester. Without sufficient gasoline the town of Westminster was somewhat stranded, but the people bore the shortage when it came with good grace.

Rationing was first applied to gasoline, later to other commodities. The first Ration Board met in the Loughlin School—Albert E. Gates, William S. Johnson, William Hackett. When Mr. Hackett moved away he was replaced by Guy L. Cossaboom, who with the first two served for the remainder of the ration period.

When food and clothing were restricted, a panel was appointed consisting of Ernestine E. Adams, Linnea Poikonen, and Maurice P. Billings. Increased work later caused Mr. Billings to resign, and Thomas Morse succeeded him. When Mr. Morse moved away, Charles Albro was appointed and served for the duration.

Fuel oil rationing was administered by a board composed of Walker C. Brown, J. Philip Howard and James P. Hayton, the last-named being later replaced by Arthur K. Rice.

At the height of the work, an office was kept open five days a week in the Town Hall. Miss Ida Barrett handled the clerical

work. Her pleasant manner and patience made her conduct of the job well remembered by Westminster citizens of those trying days. Records show that the board as a whole performed this most important and unrewarded task justly and efficiently.

THE SERVICE CLUB

The Westminster Service Club was formed in 1942 with much the same aims as the Special Aid Society of 1917. Active during World War II, and again during the Korean conflict, the club made a great contribution to service men and women, most especially with its monthly newsletters. Officers of the Service Club were Mrs. Howard Smith, Mrs. S. Edwin Story, Mrs. Eli Kahkola, Mrs. C. Herbert Mansur, Mrs. Vivian B. Whitney, Mrs. Nicholas Van Der Mark, and Mrs. Arthur K. Rice. *The club secretary, K. Elizabeth Foster, gives an account of its activities:*

“Shortly after we entered World War II a Service Club was formed by a group of women who were representatives of the various organizations of the town but under the sponsorship of the American Legion Auxiliary. As the name implies the club had for its purpose the befriending of Westministerites in the armed services. Personal remembrances were sent to them on special occasions such as birthdays, Easter, and other holidays. The club had a little money gained by voluntary contributions, and by undertakings such as the serving of refreshments at the annual Firemen’s Ball, which was used in filling boxes sent to the boys and girls at Christmas.

“Perhaps the project most enjoyed by them was the Service Letter, which was compiled and mailed more or less regularly to all the young people in uniform. The first letter, which was in charge of Mrs. Vivian B. Whitney, was mailed in January 1945, and the last of that series, the seventh, was posted in February 1946.

“The club remained inactive for some years but with the onset of the Korean conflict the letter began again, in 1953. Mrs. Whitney was still in charge with Mrs. Lois F. Innis and later Miss Doris M. Fenno as editors. The letters contained greetings from town officials, church personnel, and interested citizens, as well as bits of

town news and excerpts from letters of the service men themselves, and their changes of address. The letters were discontinued in 1958, the last one mailed in February.”

THE RED CROSS

An account of Westminster in wartime would not be complete without mention of the Red Cross. The Westminster branch of the American Red Cross was organized in May 1918 and set to work immediately preparing bandages and surgical dressings for the war effort. Its activities have expanded over the years to include sewing and preparation of food for military hospitals, as well as local relief and welfare work.

The founding officers of the local chapter were Mrs. Philip H. Loughlin, president; Frank Allen, vice-president; George L. Dawley, treasurer; and Mrs. Jessie L. Shepard, secretary. Committees were also appointed during World War I to assist in the relief of war-torn Europe, to launch a victory drive among school children, and to prepare Christmas boxes.

In peacetime the Red Cross continued its work, and in 1924 first started water-safety lessons that have continued to the present day. Currently nearly every school child in town is taught to swim under this program. The local branch assists Veterans' Hospitals, administers the Red Cross blood bank, and in times of crisis in Westminster has set up a canteen.

With the outbreak of war again in 1941, the Westminster Red Cross responded vigorously to the challenge. *In the files of the Historical Society is the following brief account of the local chapter's efforts in World War II:*

“During World War II the women of Westminster were called upon to help in many services, among them the making of surgical dressings, pads, and bandages, under the Red Cross program.

“In 1941 the town chairman of the Red Cross in Westminster, Mrs. Kaino Poikonen, appointed a committee consisting of Mrs. Arthur K. Rice, Mrs. Ralph Roper, and Mrs. Judson R. Foster. This committee was first sent to Fitchburg to learn the making, handling, and packing, in the production of surgical dressings. The

American Legion generously offered their headquarters on Main Street. Later, having outgrown these quarters, we moved to the Town Hall, then to the upper floor at the Fire Station, where all work was carried on for the duration.

“Volunteers were called for and there was a fine response. Work was carried on one day each week. Many mothers and businesswomen, unable to volunteer for daytime work, asked for evening sessions. This plan proved as productive as the daytime sessions.

“Westminster can be very proud of its work. From March 27, 1941 to February 8, 1946, 188 workers, working 8548 hours, produced 283,209 dressings. Well over one million dressings were made in combination with the main chapter in Fitchburg, and commendation was awarded the chapter for its efforts.”

THE KOREAN CONFLICT

Less than five years after the close of World War II, the country was once again involved in a military struggle, with the Communist attack on South Korea in June 1950. The story of the three-year Korean conflict was for Westminster little different than for any other town of its size in this region. But the Honor Roll, again, is more eloquent than anything we might write:

HONOR ROLL—KOREAN CONFLICT

Adams, Joseph C.	Dube, Edward J.
Aho, Waino W.	Dube, James H.
Andreasson, James	Dunn, Winston
Ball, Arnold H.	Eyles, Thomas H.
Barrett, Loring	Fenno, Frank W., Jr.
Barrett, Raymond	Goguen, Doris
Boudreau, Joseph R.	Gould, Richard
Burns, Herbert B.	Gould, Robert
Calamare, Anthony A.	Grant, John T.
Caswell, Donald E.	Grenier, Leo
Chalmers, Fred	Hakkila, Raymond
Chatigny, Walter W., Jr.	Hall, Richard R.
Davis, Richard A.	Herold, W. Roger
Davis, Myles E.	Hill, Thomas W.

Honkala, Veikko	Phillips, Bruce A.
Jaaskalainen, William	Pope, Gerald A.
Janhunen, Viljo E.	Provencal, Wilfred
Kowalewski, Paul V.	Rameau, Edward
Kujanpaa, Lauri	Rameau, Robert
Lane, George C.	Rameau, Thomas
Lane, J. P.	Rameau, Thomas J.
Lanoué, Eugene	Raymond, Emory A.
Lanoué, Robert	Sargent, C. Craig
Lawrence, Donald E.	Sargent, Chester E.
Loescher, Peter	Sliter, Donald L.
Luoma, Robert	Stevenson, Lorne
MacAloney, Raymond	Stone, Kenneth
Maki, Toivo	Stone, Russell A.
Marsh, Neil	Sunne, Kenneth
Mason, George T.	Towle, Arnold G.
Meuer, Anthony J.	Towle, Kenwood
Meuer, Leonard T.	Towle, Robert
Morisette, Roland J.	Towle, Windsor
Morse, Frederick	Travers, James E.
Nichols, Phyllis	Turner, William H.
Niemi, Waino	Wisti, Wilho
Okkanen, Jack	Woodward, David B.

Among the sons of Westminster who have had distinguished careers in the United States armed forces, there are three whose names have been prominent in recent years: Rear Admiral Frank W. Fenno; Colonel Chester E. Sargent, Ret., and his son, Major Chester Craig Sargent.

REAR ADMIRAL FRANK W. FENNO, USN

Frank W. Fenno, Jr. first gained national fame as a submarine commander in the Pacific during World War II, and his exploits have been recounted in many books, newspapers and magazines. At the time of this writing, he is commanding officer of the naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

For the rest we turn to his service record:

“Frank Wesley Fenno was born in Westminster, Massachusetts, on September 11, 1902, son of the late Frank W. and Mary Nichols Fenno. He was graduated from Fitchburg (Massachusetts) High School and attended the University of Maine for two years before his appointment in 1921 to the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, from the Third Congressional District of his native state. As a Midshipman he was a member of the Academy baseball team for three years, and its captain in 1925. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 4, 1925, he subsequently advanced to the rank of Captain, to date from July 20, 1943. His selection for the rank of Rear Admiral was approved by the President on July 26, 1954, and confirmed by the Senate to date from July 1, 1954.

“Rear Admiral Fenno has served commendably in battleships, cruisers, and submarines. For service in submarines during World War II he received the Navy Cross with two gold stars, the Distinguished Service Cross (Army), Silver Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal and Presidential Unit Citation.

“Since the end of World War II he has served two tours of duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, has attended the National War College, commanded the Submarine Base at New London, Connecticut, served as Commander Submarine Flotilla One and as Chief of Staff to Commander Submarine Force Atlantic Fleet.

“Rear Admiral Fenno’s recent assignments have been Chief of Staff to Commander United States Taiwan Defense Command, Commander Cruiser Division Five, and Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, United States Pacific Fleet. He relieved Rear Admiral R. B. Ellis as Commander Naval Base, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, on November 6, 1958.”

COLONEL CHESTER E. SARGENT

Chester E. Sargent was born in Westminster in 1894. Like his fellow townsman, General Miles, he began his military career by enlisting in wartime. Though he had not attended a service academy, his army record was sufficiently brilliant to earn him a post as Professor of Military Science at Harvard (1937-1940). A cavalry



GENERAL NELSON A. MILES



COLONEL CHESTER E. SARGENT



REAR ADMIRAL FRANK W. FENNO

expert and former member of the army riding team which performed at the international horse shows, Colonel Sargent also coached the Harvard polo squad while in Cambridge.

In World War II Colonel Sargent had to make the inevitable switch from horses to tanks. After a series of important training posts in the United States, he was sent to Europe (1944-1945) and took part in the advance through France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany. He commanded a group composed of Netherlands infantry, Belgian Fusiliers, and American TD troops.

1946 found Colonel Sargent in command of the separation center at Fort Devens. There followed a number of important posts in the New England area, until his voluntary retirement in 1953 after a total of thirty-four years of service. Among his many decorations is a high award from the Netherlands: Order of Orange-Nassau, Knight Commander, for "outstanding achievement in the liberation of Holland." Colonel Sargent has lived at his Westminster home since retirement.

MAJOR CHESTER CRAIG SARGENT

Major Chester Craig Sargent, known in Westminster as Craig Sargent, Colonel Sargent's son, was born in Newton in 1922; Westminster has always been his legal residence. A career army man, Major Sargent graduated from West Point in 1945 and began his active service in World War II. He served with distinction in the Korean War and was rapidly advanced in rank. Badly wounded in Korea, he was rescued from the front lines in a thrilling helicopter flight. He is presently serving with an armored division of the army, is married and has one son.

FINNISH PEOPLE DISCOVER WESTMINSTER

IN THE PAST FIFTY YEARS a very large percentage of the newcomers to the town has been of Finnish stock. It therefore seems appropriate to devote a chapter to the activities of this group, though it is not intended to minimize the contributions to Westminster made by those of French, Italian or other European ancestry.

A paper by Eino Friberg in the Historical Society files describing the Westminster Co-operative Farmers Association throws some light on the early Finnish immigrants. According to Friberg, "the first Finns to settle on farms here came shortly after 1900. Before the war [presumably World War I], there were some fifteen immigrant families, but during and more especially after the war over a hundred families took up residence on the farms . . . The average age of the new arrival was . . . about thirty-five. To take a run-down farm, mortgaged heavily, without stock or equipment, and to develop it [by means of wages earned in Gardner or Fitchburg factories until it could be self-supporting] seems to have taken between ten and fifteen years. . . ."

The organization officially titled the Westminster Co-operative Farmers Association has so few non-Finnish members it has long been familiarly called the "Finnish Co-op." As Mr. Friberg has it, the idea of the Co-op was born in the winter of 1918, out of a discussion between two farmers chopping wood together.

Antti Hamalainen and Matti Cedar were finding that wood-cutting, at two dollars a cord, was not quite up to what they had expected of America, land of opportunity. Friberg saw them ". . . in a setting and with a spirit to please Emerson and Thoreau. The shades of the Concord sages must have chuckled with pleasure at the independence and simplicity and self-reliance and unconscious courage implied. Like the trees they chopped, these men were rooted in the soil, whether of Finland or New England mattered little . . ."

A first meeting was held by just five men—besides Antti Hamalainen and Matti Cedar there were Otto Leino, Peter Kahkola, and A. Laitinen. The Co-op was founded in 1922 and grew in a few years to become “the largest and richest secular organization in town.” It was incorporated on April 15, 1929.

In addition to collective buying of seed, fertilizer and equipment, an early function of the Co-op was its formation of a real estate brokerage committee.

The idea was to prevent unfair prices and excessive commissions on farm sales. The agency made a fixed charge of four percent on sales up to two thousand dollars and above that amount, three percent. (This was later changed to four percent for all sales.) The agents could keep half their commissions, turning over half to the association. The real estate committee in its early years included Otto Leino, Anton Tani, Antti Hamalainen, and John Karvonen.

The regular dues were a dollar a year, and more money was added to the treasury from such activities as dances and picnics. Modern farm equipment was purchased for the collective use of members, many of whom could not have afforded their own individual machinery at the time. This enabled them to speed up reclamation of their farms toward the day when they would be able to support their own equipment.

In recent years the Co-op has continued to play an active part in the town, but its services have changed with the times. Social interests and community affairs now occupy its members to a large extent. In concluding his account Friberg writes, “The Westminster Co-operative Farmers Association has now over a hundred members and possesses thousands of dollars of investment in equipment, a bank account, and real estate.”

After World War II one could no longer associate the Finnish names of Westminster primarily with an agricultural background. Like the English colonists who preceded them, all but a few farmed only long enough to get established. The children of people from the country that gave us the symphonies of Sibelius and the architecture of Saarinen took full advantage of New England's educational benefits. Today finds them in teaching and the other professions, in industry and in business. To town government, to civic and cultural interests, they bring a heritage of hard work and integrity.

EVENTS AND OCCASIONS

THE TRADITIONALLY KEEN and active interest of Westminster people in their past is shown by a mass of material in Historical Society files and in the Westminster Public Library. For example, there is the 128-page volume recording "proceedings and exercises connected with the occasion" of the 100th Anniversary of incorporation, published in 1859. This book includes a very long poem by the same Rev. William S. Heywood who wrote the earlier history.

*No Nero, full of lies and sin, debauchery and shame,
Who might not for himself have won the heavenly meed of fame;
No Caesar, full of war, driven by ambition's mad behest,
But might have won, in holier strife, the victories of the blest.*

Twenty-one pages of such lines as these may not give us a very clear picture of Westminster in 1859. But this unusual book, with its poetry and oratory and infinite detail of genealogy and early history reveals a fondness for historic celebrations which today is keener than ever.

The first occasion for general celebration after 1893—the close of the Spanish War in 1899—seems to have been marked in Westminster with no great fanfare. This may have been due in part to the innate modesty of General Miles, who was himself a principal figure in that war, indeed perhaps the most significant figure. But on all subsequent public occasions in Westminster, up to his death in 1925, the General was usually the featured speaker.

In the files of the Historical Society we find a description of the 150th Anniversary of incorporation:

"Wednesday morning Aug. 25, 1909, the GREAT DAY, dawned bright and clear and the citizens of the town and their numerous guests were aroused at sunrise when a salute of 46 guns

was fired. . . . Answering bugle calls came from the belfries . . . public buildings and many of the houses had been decorated . . . A welcoming arch had been erected at the corner of Main Street and Worcester Road . . . The street parade began at ten o'clock . . . led by Chief Marshal F. W. Fenno and his nine aides on horseback. . . . Mr. Frederick W. Mossman presided at the open air exercises. . . .

Further details may be found in a book published and donated to the town by Wilbur F. Whitney, entitled:

An Account of the Exercises Connected with the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Town of Westminster, Massachusetts, 1909, together with Historical and Legendary Reminiscences Connected with the Town

It contains many lengthy addresses by well-known personages of town and state, good photos of floats in the parade, of old houses and of other buildings of interest.

On May 7, 1919, a "Welcome Home" evening was held in the Town Hall to honor the twenty servicemen who had returned from World War I. This affair was but a preliminary to the Welcome Home Day of September 19th, in which the whole town took part, with most of the sixty-two Honor Roll men present.

Invitations called attention to a parade and band concert in the afternoon; then a banquet, followed by speeches and exercises; and finally, a dance. Speaker of the day was General Miles, followed by ex-Senator Marcus Coolidge and others. A memorial tribute was paid to the two boys who did not return, Rollin M. Cannon and William S. Miller.

One unscheduled but exciting event of the day points up the great change in aviation between that time and World War II. An army airplane had landed on a field close by the village, after an exhibition flight around the town—in 1919 a considerable novelty. On taking off, besides the pilot, the plane carried State Representative George L. Dawley as passenger. Engine trouble developed, and the plane crashed into an apple tree. Such was the fragile construction, however, together with the slow speed, that the impact only resulted in minor bruises for the two men.

A Massachusetts Tercentenary Celebration was held September 6-7, 1930, in which again most of the town took part. Plays, pageants, parades, evening entertainments and special Sunday services were all well attended, according to the records. Nelson S. Greely, always an enthusiastic participant in such affairs, was described in newspaper accounts as a prominent feature of the parade. The Westminster man, dressed in Revolutionary uniform, drove a horse and 150-year-old chaise. Many of the townspeople appeared in early Colonial costumes, and several old homes were opened to the public.

Next important occasion recorded by the Historical Society, "Fenno Day," took place August 1, 1943, to honor Commander (now Rear Admiral) Frank W. Fenno, Jr. The Westminster man had recently attracted national attention by a daring escape from the Philippines in the submarine he commanded. The craft was carrying a cargo of Philippine gold reserves, making it a coveted target for the Japanese. The exploit is related in the book by Lowell Thomas, *These Men Shall Never Die*,* accompanied by a photo of Commander Fenno.

One newspaper account of the day begins: "More than 2000 residents of Westminster and surrounding communities, members of veterans' organizations, including state officers of the Legion of Valor, national, state and city officials, paid tribute yesterday afternoon to Commander Frank W. Fenno, hero of many submarine engagements in the Pacific War theater and holder of the Distinguished Service Cross and three Navy Crosses, at impressive and colorful ceremonies at which he was presented a life membership in the Legion of Valor . . ."

Selectman Judson R. Foster was master of ceremonies. The outdoor gathering, on the school grounds, was followed by a dinner with an address by United States Senator David I. Walsh. The news account characterized the event as "one of the biggest days in the history of the town."

At the close of World War II, a "Welcome Home Day" was held October 12, 1946. Approximately one hundred and twenty-five veterans attended with families and friends. The program followed the usual Westminster standard for such occasions: band concert, banquet, a dance, and special church services on Sunday

* John C. Winston Co., Philadelphia, 1943.

morning. Eight families of men who lost their lives in the services were presented with flowers and appropriate memorial tributes.

The most recent and most elaborate of all Westminster celebrations occurred outside the planned scope of this book—in the year 1959—but will be dealt with here briefly. It was the year of the 200th Anniversary of the incorporation of the town. The extensive planning by the townsfolk for its pageants and parades was advertised in many ways throughout the spring and summer. In connection with the event a handsome, forty-page booklet of photographs of Westminster scenes and buildings was published by the Historical Society: *200th Anniversary of the Town of Westminster, Massachusetts—1759-1959*.

The hour before midnight on December 31, 1958, found numerous townspeople gathered near the Civil War monument to watch the lighting of the symbol of the Bi-centennial. This was a mammoth replica of a birthday cake and candles. The light switch was thrown at midnight by George L. Dawley, and the cake remained in place throughout the year.

Events in coming months were to be, in the words of an Historical Society paper, "too numerous to be listed." Almost weekly there were formal dances, sporting events, firemen's musters, antique auto shows, events for children, open-house days—even a "beard contest." The paper concludes:

"The most important and long to be remembered event was held on August 8—Parade and Children's Day. The weather was clear and warm and the morning parade, lasting almost two hours, was an outstanding spectacle with an estimated 30,000 viewers. Bands, floats, marching and motorized units, and all the extras a proud, co-operative community spirit could create resulted in an unusually successful and beautiful presentation. The afternoon was given to entertainment for children. Various athletic contests were held on the school grounds where amusement devices were in operation as well as refreshment stands. While the young people participated, the older residents and visitors renewed friendships and enjoyed the carefree day that only such a gala occasion can offer. The day closed with a band concert and a gigantic display of fireworks.

"The Committee, Mr. Frank Onischuk, Chairman, Mrs. Eino

A. Haynes, Clerk, Mrs. Toivo A. Wilen, Treasurer, Mr. Eino N. Salo and Mr. Walter D. Vieweg, is to be commended for its organization and inspiration that made it possible for everyone within the Town to participate in some way in making this year a memorable one for all.

“An unusual feature—an Appreciation Night—was held at the Fenno Auditorium on February 28, 1960, when the Committee presented parchment scrolls to all individuals, business firms, and organizations who had helped in any way during the Celebration affairs. At this time colored slides and movies were shown, refreshments served, and a most pleasant social evening enjoyed by all who attended.”

In summing up, it might be said that the great amount of hard work, enthusiasm, and talent—not to mention expense—which has been contributed to Westminster's special occasions shows the unusual civic pride of the town as a whole. By encouraging interest in the town's history and in the contemporary events which become the history of the future, the Historical Society has been a major contributor since its founding in 1921.

MEMORIES OF WESTMINSTER

ABOUT ANY TOWN there are certain items of information which are not readily classifiable; and in this chapter we have gathered as much of this material as space would permit.

SETTLEMENTS

Outside of the center of Westminster itself other settlements have sprung up within the town over the years, some still thriving today and some no longer in existence. In the 1890's South Westminster was a flourishing community of many houses, with a large chair factory, paint and blacksmith shops, a fire station and even a post office. It reached its peak of prosperity in 1897—then disaster struck. In October of that year the chair factory burned down, and that same winter its owner, Artemas Merriam, died. The property was sold and most of the houses were moved away. The land and watershed were bought by the city of Fitchburg. Today even the road has been changed, so it is difficult to visualize the bustling community of sixty years ago.

Whitmanville, sometimes known as Scrag Hollow or Scrabble Hollow, is three miles northeast of the center and was in early times the site of a mill and tavern owned by the Whitman family. In the early 1900's Franklin Lombard and others ran a chair factory there. In fifty years Whitmanville has grown and is today a village of some fifty families.

The Narrows was a prosperous settlement with its own school, stores, post office and mills until about 1893, when Mr. Wyman, owner of the mills, was sued for infringement of water rights by the town of Princeton. When the town of Westminster refused

to aid him, he sold out to the city of Fitchburg and the mills were torn down. Today only a few of the old dwellings remain, but many new houses have sprung up and the Narrows is a growing community.

Westminster Depot was also a busy place both before and after the turn of the century. In addition to passenger traffic, it served as a shipping and receiving point for the many local industries and farms. Edward Miller ran the old stage coach which carried passengers and mail to and from Westminster Center two miles away. In those days the settlement at the Depot had its own post office, located in the house known as the Valley Hotel. Westminster Depot was also the site of Eli H. Merriam's grain store and lumber mill which did a flourishing business for many years. Mr. Burns, the stationmaster, and his family lived over the station, and when the depot burned in March 1908 they lost all their belongings. Mr. Burns remained as agent, and was later succeeded by his daughter, Mrs. Pearl Cousins. Rail traffic gradually dwindled, however, and the depot was closed in 1930.

Wachusett Park began as a resort about 1873 when Simeon Bolton opened a pavilion and park there, and later built The North Side House, a two-story hotel, as well as a skating rink, bowling alley, stable and private fish pond. Another similar park was opened later on the north side of the lake by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Griswold, with the added attraction of a steamer which made trips around the lake. (Today the highway goes through the site of the Griswold stable.) The advent of the trolley in 1899 brought crowds of people on Sundays and holidays. After the trolleys were discontinued the park closed—about 1920. This park was the forerunner of many around Wyman's Pond, all of which started as summer picnic groves and are now the sites of year-round residences. A large percentage of Westminster's growing population now live in this area.

WANDERING HOUSES

There was a curious phase of Westminster history when a surprising number of buildings were moved intact over considerable

distances. We tend to think it is only in this age of heavy tractors that a large house can be trundled overland for half a mile or so. But it was early in the century when all this moving took place, accomplished with horses and rope tackle and hand tools.

Probably the largest to be moved was the Reed House (later to become the Westminster Tavern), which in 1900 took two weeks to roll slowly from the corner of Main and Bacon Streets to the present site of the Capè Ann Diner. This house was also unique because its occupants at the time, Mrs. Abbie Bell and her family, lived in it during the long progress up Main Street. Her daughter sometimes sat in the doorway, rocking her baby brother and chatting with friends who walked along beside her. Mrs. Bell boasted that her clock never gained or lost a second during the whole journey.

This large house, which opened in 1906 as the tavern, had originally stood across the street from the Laura M. (Eaton) Miller home. These two houses, according to local legend, were very similar because their builders tried to rival each other; whenever one added columns or some other feature, his neighbor immediately copied it. When the Reed house was moved it was to make way for the Forbush Memorial Library building.

In 1883 the Universalist Church was moved from North Common, near the present site of the Walkonen home, to the Center. But on the site chosen for it there was already another building, with an office and cobbler shop, which also had to be moved. This is now owned by James Adams and occupied by Mrs. Mabel Story.

The home of Harry Black on Brooks Avenue was moved from the site of the present Onischuk home. The latter was built by Deacon David Hill, a handsome, large house said to have been too expensive for the approval of his thrifty wife. In any case, the Deacon moved the original house solely in order to clear the location he wanted for his new home.

Dr. Perkins's home on Bacon Street was another "restless" house. It once stood next to the house of Mrs. Laura Miller, who has converted its cellar hole into a garden. Story has it that Jerome Whitman, the owner, wanted to move the house to Whitmanville, but when he began operations the building kept slipping off its rollers. Finally Whitman lost his patience and his temper when the house got stalled in front of its present location. Then Israel

Dickinson came out (from what is now the Strom home) and suggested the house could be set on his land without moving farther, and Whitman accepted with alacrity.

The burning of the Merriam chair factory, and later the condemning of buildings in order to protect the Fitchburg water supply, started a wholesale moving of houses from South Westminster. Most of them went all the way to Westminster's Center. In many cases families kept house as usual during their slow overland voyage. Among the houses moved were those now occupied by Mrs. Mabel Ray Fenno, Mrs. Maude McGee Ralph, Charles Wuth, Kenneth Hobbs, Carl Black, Arnold Carll, and others.

The Paul Smith home on Main Street was once a schoolhouse that in 1800 stood halfway down Academy Hill.

FOX FARM

An interesting paper in the Historical Society files, *Ten Years of the Wachusett Silver Black Fox Company*, describes in detail an enterprise begun in the mid-twenties which flourished until fox fur went out of fashion around 1937. Mrs. Eva L. Stevenson gives an account of how her husband managed the fox ranch on Knowler Road, caring for some two hundred pairs of foxes. One pelt was said to have been sold to a Swedish firm for one thousand dollars.

SPITE WALL

A town legend, featured in the *Worcester Telegram*, September 28, 1958, concerns an eleven-foot-high wall of roughly piled field stones. The wall was built by Edmund Proctor (a farmer who settled on what is now the Poikonen property in 1852) and is thought to have been a "spite wall" to screen his house from the view of another farmer named Morse who lived across the road.

Proctor was an eccentric who named all his eight children so that they would have the initials A. H. His last surviving son, Amboy Harlem Proctor, died in 1946 at eighty-two. A spinster sister who kept house for him died soon after. The Poikonens built a modern

home on the site of the original Proctor house, which had burned about 1898 and been replaced by Proctor with another structure. The original huge wall remains, however, one of the historical curiosities of Westminster. (*See illustration.*)

JAIL

There was once a jail in the old Main Street firehouse building, but a 1901 reference would indicate it was seldom used even then. And it speaks well for the law and order of the town that the iron-barred room was demolished entirely in 1919 when the building was renovated to make room for new equipment.

WEATHER

Unusual weather events over the years include a tornado in 1924, when the C. L. Smith barn was demolished, the roof blown off the Cracker Bakery, and the Universalist church spire tumbled into the street. There was also much chimney damage, but no record of any persons injured.

In 1936 a flood, said to be the worst in the town's history, caused very severe road damage. And the hurricane of 1938 caused Westminster about the same trouble and loss which occurred generally throughout the region, though no single result of the storm seems important enough to warrant mention here.

It is said that the town's worst experience from heavy snows occurred in 1920. At that time travel depended largely on the electric railway which was closed down for a period of some six weeks. The town was virtually isolated except for horse-drawn sleighs.

BRADBURY HOUSE

On the site of the World War I boulder monument, there once stood an imposing house known as the Bradbury house built by Jerome Whitman. Later the Post Office, a meat market and various

stores and shops were located there. By 1918 it had become greatly out of repair and was torn down.

GARDNER STATE HOSPITAL

While the Gardner State Hospital is outside the town boundaries and thus does not come within our province, some thousand acres of the hospital land does lie within the town of Westminster. On this land there are also several buildings, formerly farmhouses, which are used by the hospital. Thus the institution's holdings play an important part in the structure of the town; and there is an economic factor in that many citizens of Westminster, past and present, have found employment connected with the hospital.

Beginning in 1901, the hospital from time to time acquired lands from the properties of Joseph Seaver, Hollis J. Leland, Hiram Ray, Albert Gates, George Sargent and others.

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

In 1926 an improved hard-top motor road was completed to the summit of Wachusett, the mountain which dominates Westminster from the west and which has always played a large part in the recreation of the town.

Older residents remember a prison camp, located on the Bolton road across from the Niemi farm. For a period of two or three years, beginning in 1915, some fifty prisoners worked on roads and other projects of the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation.

TELEPHONES

The first private telephone line in Westminster linked the homes of Dr. A. E. Mossman and Augustine Whitney and was installed about 1893-95 (exact date uncertain). Crank-type box phones were put in each house and wires strung on trees by Dr. Mossman and Leon Whitney, who was an electrical engineer.

Others began to appear soon afterward in several parts of town, the first to the C. C. Dawley home, now owned by Chief of Police Toivo Tuominen. Each owner bought his own equipment and each family had its own signal for ringing. When the G. W. & F. Street Railway was built in 1899, a telephone system was installed along the route. This was not for public use, but was connected with the Gardner exchange of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company.

OLDEST HOUSE

The oldest house in town still stands on the Old Worcester Road near Meetinghouse Pond. On one of its large foundation stones is carved the date 1737, the year in which Fairbanks Moor, Westminster's first settler, built the house. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nikunen whose family bought it from the heirs of Hobart Raymond in 1934.

Now covered by asbestos shingles, in the old days the house had narrow clapboards on its walls and the roof was of wooden shingles. It is low-ceilinged and still has most of its original wide board flooring; window and door hardware is still as it was. The house had a central chimney, and in the original kitchen was a wall oven made of stones. (*See illustration.*)

CATTLE SHOW

One of the memorable highlights of the years from 1879 to 1927 was the annual Westminster Cattle Show and Fair every September. Sponsored by the Farmers' and Mechanics' Association, this colorful event was Old Home Day for residents and non-residents, young and old alike.

From the Cracker Bakery to the old Westminster Hotel, Main Street was lined on both sides by hawkers with all sorts of wares and amusements. Cattle, sheep and hogs were exhibited in pens on the grounds of the Congregational Church; poultry and pets in cages

along the north side. The upper floor of the Town Hall was filled with vegetables, flowers, preserves and craftwork, and on the lower floor a home-cooked dinner was served at noontime. There were plowing contests held in a field nearby and pulling matches for oxen and horses in front of the fire station.

The feature of the afternoon was a parade, led by the local band and mounted marshals. Following in procession were the colorful and gaily decked floats of Westminster clubs and merchants, drawn by horses and oxen. The gala day was climaxed in the evening by a dance at the Town Hall. Following World War I, with the arrival of the automobile and the simultaneous decline of farming in the area, the Cattle Show was discontinued after many successful years.

FALSE ARMISTICE DAY

Still vivid in the memories of many citizens was the night in early November, 1918, when Westminster awoke to hear the church bell ringing furiously and the Gardner and Fitchburg fire whistles blowing. It was the night of the "false armistice," which preceded the actual end of World War I by two days. Someone had jumped the gun, announcing peace had come, but on that night people were sure it was the real thing.

Lights went up in the houses, people hustled into warm clothes and rushed into the street banging cooking pans, blowing old-fashioned tin horns, shouting and ringing bells. "The War is over!" Some even took turns ringing the big bell in the Congregational Church: one of them, a tall, dignified woman, took her turn and pulled the bellrope with such enthusiasm that she was lifted from the floor and rose up almost to the ceiling before the bell turned and let her safely down again. Another prominent citizen outdid all the other noisemakers when he produced an old circular saw, attached to a pole, which the men took turns hitting with a sledgehammer. Before long a parade formed and marched from the Public Library to Academy Hill, where a huge bonfire was kindled.

There was a rude awakening when the truth was learned—the Armistice had not yet been signed—but for many the planned cele-

bration a few days later when it was official could never take the place of the spontaneous outburst that was the False Armistice.

MILLIONAIRE FOR A DAY

November 11, 1922 was an unforgettable day for Mrs. Abbie Ballou of Main Street, a long-time resident of Westminster. She was the winner of the *Boston Post's* "Millionaire for a Day" contest. To the question, "Would you care to have your child in the movies?" Mrs. Ballou had replied, "No, it develops too many falling stars."

As guests of the *Post*, Mrs. Ballou and her husband, John F. Ballou, had a chauffeured limousine at their disposal in Boston all day. They visited humorist Newton Newkirk, toured the Art Museum, the Public Library and a radio station, spent some time with friends, and dined at the Copley-Plaza and the Touraine. They took in a matinee at Keith's, a symphony concert in the evening, and Mrs. Ballou had her first ride on a subway. Her last visit to Boston had been twenty-five years before, when transportation was by horse car. The *Post* gave the Ballous a handsome assortment of presents to complete a memorable occasion.

TRAMP HOUSE INCIDENT

In many towns at the turn of the century a lodging place was provided for itinerants, most of them ne'er-do-wells who wandered on foot from place to place. In Westminster it was the Tramp House, a small shed at the foot of the hill on the Marshall Farm.

One night there were two occupants, one of whom was ill and had a bad rash. In the morning, at the behest of Mrs. Marshall, he went to see Dr. A. E. Mossman in the village. The doctor diagnosed his illness as smallpox! He was rushed back to the Tramp House and locked up; the other tramp, who had wandered off, was found and returned immediately to be quarantined with his companion. Dr. Mossman made daily visits to the men, changing his clothes and bathing at the farmhouse after each visit. No one else

was allowed near, and everyone who had been in contact with the smallpox patient was vaccinated, besides many others. When the time of quarantine had passed, the Tramp House was fumigated and its contents burned in a nearby field. And no one contracted the disease—surely one time when a little charity paid dividends.

❧ Chapter Seventeen

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

MISS SARAH J. WYMAN, who is mentioned in the dedication of this book, was a woman whose character and personality are still well remembered in Westminster. She grew up in a time when flowery, long-winded oratory was the order of the day on every occasion; a time when women seldom spoke in public, but when they did so usually copied the methods of male speakers. So it is all the more remarkable to find here a speech which is a model of direct, plain, unadorned narration. Miss Wyman was not given to the wandering, over-sentimental recollections which are even today so dear to the hearts of many speakers on historical occasions.

The following is written from typed notes of the speech she read at the Massachusetts Tercentenary exercises in 1930, and may be presumed to be substantially verbatim.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF WESTMINSTER

by Sarah J. Wyman

Professor Booker T. Washington once said there was nothing he disliked so much as a fourteen-course dinner just before making a speech; that he then wished himself back in a log cabin, a slave, with a bit of molasses that his mother used to bring up from the big house on a Sunday morning, his share being two spoonfuls.

I may not give you the "two spoonfuls of molasses" but will give you memories of the past.

It has been asked why Westminster, settled more than one hundred years after the Massachusetts Bay Colony was founded, should celebrate a Tercentenary. We answer: That the ancestors of the early settlers may not be forgotten.

. . . One of the first divisions pledged to the soldiers of King

Philip's war was drawn by lot by men from Cambridge, Weston, Medford and Reading, whose names indicated they were personally engaged in the Swamp Fight of December 19, 1675. Many meetings were called and a standing committee appointed to make the division, viz:

"A farm of 600 acres for his excellency, Jonathan Belcher, which was known as the Governor's farm.

"A site for a meetinghouse with sufficient land for training field and a burying-place.

"A lot of 60 acres for the first minister.

"A lot for the support of schools, and a lot for each of the proprietors of 60 acres."

In 1734 we find "Voted, to allow Mr. Edward Jackson (Newton) and Mrs. Zacariah Smith (of Watertown) 30 pounds in lieu of the 27 pounds agreed for, they having made it appear they were losers by building the house at Wachusett according to the bargain made with the aforesaid committee." This house, the first in Narragansett No. 2, was near the present home of Mrs. Shannon. It was probably the home of Mr. Joseph Holden, who with Mr. Fairbanks Moor and their families comprised fifteen persons.

Mr. Moor in a few years left for Deerfield. A meetinghouse was made ready for occupancy in June 1739, but probably not finished, for on September 10, 1740, it was voted to build a pulpit, deacon's seat and body of seats on the floor, leaving sufficient room for pews and stairs to go into the gallery. This meetinghouse, or the one built in 1787, was used for all town business. Consequently, when the new church was built in 1836, it became necessary for the town to provide other accommodations for the management of town affairs in the future. A meeting of the citizens was called "to see if the town will take any measure to purchase the old meetinghouse"; another article: "to see if the town will take measures to build a town house." The first article was passed. On the second, a committee was chosen to ascertain the necessity of a building or providing a place for holding town meetings in the future. The committee reported but no definite action was taken, the town using the meetinghouse until 1839, when a committee of twelve, with Dr. John White as chairman, was appointed to make a plan and estimate the expense of building a town house. They reported that "a building one story high, agreeable to the accom-

panying plan, may be built for \$1300. . . . Your committee have found three places." The one between Mr. Joseph N. Minott's and Mr. Jonas Cutting's was selected at a cost of \$235. The town voted to accept the report and chose Captain Joseph Whitney, Leonard Minott, Simeon Sanderson, Esq., Dr. John White and Joseph Whitman, Esq., as committee to build. The house was completed for the state election on November 11, 1839.

Dr. David Parker, who practiced medicine for fifty years, more or less, in Gardner, once told me that when through with his studies he walked from his home in Westford to Concord, to take the stage going from Boston to Brattleboro. When it reached Westminster, they changed horses and the men around the stable asked where he was going. When he told them, one said, "So you are going to the big city of Gardner," causing a laugh all around. When he told me that story he said, "Now Gardner has the laugh on Westminster folks."

Some years before 1800, a Mr. Perry of Leominster bought a small house lot where Mr. Handlin now lives, erected a shop, commenced cabinetmaking and continued for ten or more years. He sold to Mr. John Miller and Mr. Edward Kendall. Mr. Kendall purchased Mr. Miller's interest, continuing awhile there, but finally transferred it to a building which stood where Mr. Stanbridge's garage now is. He was succeeded by his sons, Edward and George. Much of the mahogany furniture formerly in Westminster was of Kendall make.

Jonas Cutting was also a cabinetmaker in a shop now between Mr. Lynde's and the telephone office. Church pulpits were his specialty. The former pulpits in this town as well as those of surrounding towns were his work.

David Wyman of Pelham, New Hampshire, having learned the art of fulling cloth in Dracut, commenced his trade in Jaffrey. In 1792 he sold his business there and removed to this town, starting the same trade on a privilege on the Wachusett branch of the Nashua River. He had a family of seven sons and three daughters. The work of feeding and making clothes for the ten children was all done by the mother, with the assistance of the girls. The boys were kept at work helping their father or chopping wood, as he was constantly adding land to his possessions. The fifth in order, Franklin, was unwilling to wait until he was twenty-one years

before he had money of his own. At seventeen he decided to buy his time of his father. He went into the then wilderness, Gardner, bought a small wood lot, cut it off and made something by the trade and returned home much pleased by his success. His father smiled and he, too, seemed pleased, but when his son offered to buy a piece of land of him he replied, "I do not trade with boys." He kept on until 1845, when he came in possession of all the water power on the stream, with one or two exceptions. He then built and fitted up a mill for the manufacture of paper, commencing business with Willoughbee Wilder, a papermaker by trade. Two years later he erected a second mill and let it to Gibson and Randlett. Their resources were not sufficient to carry on business, and he assumed the responsibility of manufacturing paper alone. Success followed him and in less than twenty years the amount of paper produced yearly amounted to three hundred thousand dollars.

In 1892 the city of Fitchburg purchased the mill property, which included his water rights in Meetinghouse and Wachusett ponds. His youngest brother Alfred started the bakery the same year. He was successful and, after a few years, sold to Harrison G. Whitney, who successfully carried on the trade for many years. Much praise is due the present owners for keeping the business in Westminster.

The manufacture of chairs was early introduced by a number of persons doing the work by hand in small shops. One of the first shops operated by water power was by Mr. Charles Smith, on Whitman River, who was succeeded by Albert Forbush. Other chairmakers at Whitmanville have been John Whitney, Jr., Pearson Cowee, Monroe Brothers, Franklin Lombard, and Pierce and Mather.

In 1926 a fire destroyed the Whitmanville chair business.

In the early 1840's Mr. Artemas Merriam began making chairs in a small shop near Hobart Raymond's house. In a few years he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Mr. George Holden, under the firm name of Holden and Merriam, South Westminster. They constantly enlarged their business, taking as a partner Joel Merriam. A fire destroyed the building in 1869, and they rebuilt on a much larger scale, D. C. Miles entering the partnership. He retired in a few years, and both Joel Merriam and George Holden dying left the entire establishment in the hands of Artemas, whose property gave employment to more than one hundred men. The

death of Mr. Merriam and a fire ended the chair business, the property being sold to the City of Fitchburg.

After the meetinghouse on the hill was given up for religious purposes, it was purchased by Dr. White, Joseph Whitman and Stillman Brooks, moved to a privilege near Elliott Street and a part of it made ready for chairmaking. Brooks and Whitman carried on the business awhile, followed by Whitman Brothers, whose failure in 1839 was felt to be a great blow to the town, and real estate reached a low ebb.

Mr. Charles Coolidge began chairmaking in a small shop in the westerly part of the town. After a few years he moved to the village to the spot where Mr. Charles L. Smith is now in business. He enlarged his business, which was at one time an important factor of the town. He was succeeded by his son, Hon. F. S. Coolidge, who manufactured chairs until the late 1870's, when a fire destroyed the shop.

In 1857 Frederick and Francis Nichols, with James Clark and Porter Howard, bought the property of Edward and George Kendall, erected a steam mill and commenced the manufacture of chairs. The venture proving successful, they made improvements and enlargements. Later the plant passed into the possession of Charles and Marcus M. Nichols, with the firm name of Nichols Brothers and in 1891 or 1892 the business was moved to Gardner under the firm name of Nichols and Stone.

When the shop was first built in the latter part of the 1850's the Ladies' Literary Society was given the use of it two nights for a levee, which was held in November, 1857. I have heard that you could not go into a house on the street the preceding summer but you would see ladies doing needlepoint or some piece of delicate fancywork for the sale. One evening they had speaking and tableaux, the other a play. The money received was used for lectures the following winter by some of the best talent, including Hon. Charles Sumner, Rev. A. A. Miner, T. W. Higginson and the silver-tongued orator, Wendell Phillips. That was before women had taken the platform as orators, yet they were ever ready to respond when called upon to work.

Well do I remember seeing a small book in my mother's drawer, entitled "Martha Washington Temperance Society," with the name of Mrs. Sally Titus, President. When the Civil War called

for women to do their part a branch of the sanitary commission was started here with the same Mrs. Sally Titus president. The work of the World War is of too recent date to be mentioned here.

Twice has this district been represented at Washington in the Lower House by a native or resident of Westminster. She furnished a governor for one of the middle states in the West, six captains and two colonels in the Revolutionary War, and when the Civil War called for volunteers, one from here rose to Major General, the youngest officer connected with the army attaining that rank, and before retiring from the army was made Lieutenant General. In June 1896, Harvard College conferred upon him one of its honorary degrees, as it did the same day on Dr. Bell, the inventor of the telephone.

Westminster may well be proud of those who have honored her and may she continue to be as proud of her future sons and daughters, who we hope may outshine those who have passed on.

❧ *Chapter Eighteen*

IMPORTANT DATES

March	1736	Sawmill built at Wachusett Reservoir
March	1737	First settler arrived (Fairbanks Moor)
	1738	First licensed Inn Holder (Fairbanks Moor)
June	6, 1739	First Meetinghouse dedicated
July	6, 1741	Gristmill built on Lot 22 (Meetinghouse Pond outlet)
August	4, 1742	First Minister settled
October	20, 1742	First Congregational Church organized
October	20, 1759	Town Incorporated
September	21, 1760	First Pound voted
May	27, 1761	Store on Academy Hill (Home of William B. MacAloney, Sr.)
June	1, 1761	Raymond Sawmill in use (now the Old Mill)
January	1, 1766	First School Building voted
August	14, 1776	Post Rider rode through Town en route Worcester to Fitchburg
April	19, 1778	Lord's Barn built on Dean Hill
May	17, 1785	Land ceded to Gardner
April	14, 1789	Second School Building voted
October	24, 1799	Westminster Hotel opened (opposite Adams Street)
January	7, 1803	Drugstore operating opposite the Hotel
September	9, 1803	Brick Store opened
May	10, 1804	First Post Office opened in Drugstore
March	1807	Town bell installed in First Congregational Church belfry
March	28, 1815	Methodist Society organized
	1817	Methodist Society building dedicated (South Ashburnham Road)

February	7,	1820	Universalist Church organized
July	3,	1821	Universalist Church building dedicated (North Common)
August	11,	1825	First Fire Engine Company appointed
March	19,	1827	Baptist Church organized
March	1,	1828	Cracker Bakery opened
October	19,	1830	Baptist Church building dedicated (Meet- inghouse Pond)
May	17,	1830	Westminster Academy opened (Academy Hill)
		1832	Methodist Society disbanded
		1832	Lyceum organized (Library)
November	11,	1839	Town Hall used for first time
		1843	Merriam Brothers Chair Shop operating at South Westminster
		1845	Lombard's Chair Shop operating in Whit- manville
		1845	Wyman Paper Mill opened in Wachusett- ville (Narrows)
December	16,	1845	Westminster Depot opened
March	1,	1852	Town Safe voted
March		1852	First School Report printed
March		1853	Literary Society organized
		1855	Center School erected
July	4,	1856	Nichols Brothers Chair Shop operating at Main and Eaton Streets
October	6,	1859	Centennial Observance of Incorporation of Town
		1865	Library Association organized
July	4,	1868	Civil War Monument dedicated
November	28,	1868	Joseph P. Rice Post 69, Grand Army of the Republic organized
		1873	Wachusett Park opened
July	10,	1875	Westminster National Bank chartered
		1877	Public Library established
June	14,	1878	First "Old Folks" Picnic
November	13,	1878	Farmers' and Mechanics' Association or- ganized

February	2, 1879	First Annual Farmers' Supper
October	1, 1879	First Annual Cattle Show and Fair
April	21, 1884	Village Improvement Society organized
August	6, 1884	First reunion of Academy graduates
August	17, 1886	Nichols Brothers Chair Shop destroyed by fire
July	22, 1887	Sesquicentennial Observance of Settlement of Town
January	24, 1888	Westminster Academy destroyed by fire
April	1897	First insurance agency operating: C. E. Barron (Barron-Adams)
May	28, 1889	Cyrus K. Miller Camp 101, Sons of Union Veterans of Civil War, organized
January	29, 1890	Joseph P. Rice Women's Relief Corps 115 organized
	1892	Wyman Paper Mill discontinued
	1892	Fitchburg acquired water rights of Wachusett Lake and Meetinghouse Pond
	1893	Nichols Brothers Chair Shop moved to Gardner
May	14, 1894	Westminster Grange, 203, Patrons of Husbandry, organized
September	20, 1894	Westminster National Bank moved to Gardner
October	8, 1897	Merriam Brothers Chair Shop destroyed by fire
September	28, 1899	Gardner, Westminster and Fitchburg Street Railway franchise granted
March	5, 1900	Town Seal voted
August	22, 1902	Forbush Memorial Library building dedicated
November	28, 1903	Westminster Hotel destroyed by fire
September	12, 1904	Telephone Office opened on Leominster St. (Home of Albert Arcangeli)
October	8, 1905	Revolutionary War monument dedicated
March	16, 1906	Westminster Depot destroyed by fire
August	25, 1909	150th Observance of Incorporation of Town

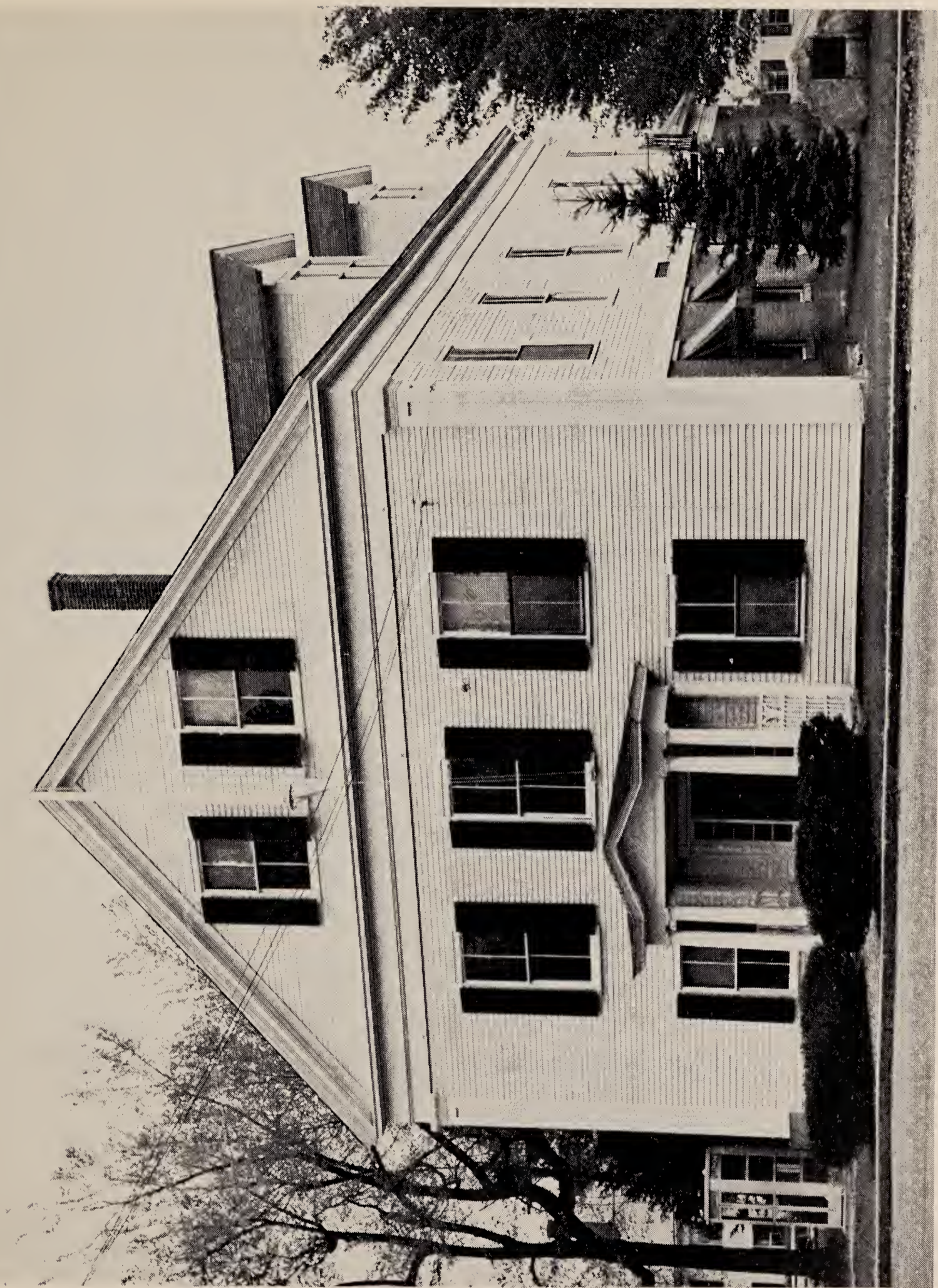
April	6, 1911	Electric street lighting voted
October	12, 1911	Priscilla Alden Tent 51, Daughters of Union Veterans of Civil War, organized
March	6, 1912	Upton School building voted
March	1, 1915	Abolishment of Real Estate tax discount voted
	1915	High School accredited "A" by State Board of Education
March	5, 1917	Chemical Fire engine voted
August	21, 1918	Main Street becomes part of Massachusetts State Highway
November	9, 1918	False Armistice Day observed
November	11, 1918	Armistice Day celebration
	1918	Last horse-drawn fire engine
	1919	Goodridge Box Shop destroyed by fire
September	19, 1919	Welcome Home Day, World War I
September	1, 1920	William S. Miller Post 174, American Legion, organized
September	1, 1920	William S. Miller Unit 174, Auxiliary, organized
March	7, 1921	Memorial Boulder voted (World War I)
March	1922	Fire siren voted
	1922	Farmers Co-operative Assn. founded
March	5, 1923	Town Accountant voted
	1923	First Town Garage built (Upper Main St.)
December	31, 1923	Last run of Gardner, Westminster and Fitchburg Street Railway
January	1, 1924	Flanagan Bus Line in operation
May	19, 1925	Memorial Service in honor of General Nelson A. Miles
	1926	Mather Pierce Chair Shop destroyed by fire (Lombard's)
March	7, 1927	First Town Director, County Extension Service, voted
September	26, 1927	Last Cattle Show and Fair
June	29, 1928	Westminster High School discontinued
March	3, 1930	Westminster Advisory Committee voted
	1930	Westminster Depot closed

September	6,	1930	Observance of Massachusetts Tercentenary
March	2,	1931	Australian ballot voted for Town elections
		1932	Smith Box Shop destroyed by fire
		1933	Universalist Church services discontinued (Main St.)
December	8,	1933	Loughlin School voted
April	17,	1934	Last Farmers and Mechanics Meeting and Supper
October	9,	1935	Loughlin School date stone laid
		1936	Town Garage on South Street
November	10,	1940	First Congregational Church destroyed by fire
August	1,	1943	Fenno Day, Honoring Commander Frank W. Fenno
November	11,	1943	World War II Honor Roll dedicated
March	3,	1945	Names and locations of streets and roads accepted as recorded by Massachusetts State Highway Department
March	3,	1945	Abandonment of Town Scales voted
May	8,	1945	European Peace Treaty observed with church service
August	14,	1945	Celebration of Japanese surrender
May	26,	1946	Douglas E. Hicks Post 7389, Veterans of Foreign Wars, organized
		1946	Smith Box Shop again destroyed by fire
October	12,	1946	Welcome Home Day World War II
April		1947	Smith Box Factory again destroyed by fire
May	20,	1947	Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary or- ganized
January	1,	1948	Old Mill Tea Room destroyed by fire
March	13,	1948	Westminster Hotel destroyed by fire
May	30,	1948	Spanish War Memorial dedicated
June	1,	1951	St. Edward the Confessor Parish authorized
July	12,	1951	Loughlin School wing voted
August	20,	1952	50th Anniversary of Forbush Memorial Li- brary building observed
October	12,	1952	St. Edward the Confessor Parish Church Building dedicated

April	1, 1953	Westminster Women's Club organized
	1953	Westminster Teachers' Association organized
July	1, 1954	Post Office advanced to Second Class
October	13, 1954	Municipal Water System voted
March	5, 1955	Planning Board voted
March	5, 1955	New Fire Station voted
March	17, 1955	Telephone Dial system inaugurated
November	6, 1956	Fenno School Wing dedicated
January	13, 1957	New Fire Station Open House Day
December	27, 1957	Committee of five appointed to organize 200th Anniversary of Incorporation of Town
March	1, 1958	Town Co-ordinator voted
October	14, 1958	Money appropriated for expense of 200th Anniversary Committee
December	16, 1958	School Union formed with Ashburnham in connection with Regional Junior Senior High School

Appendix

	<i>Reference</i>
A. Town Officers: 1894; 1930; 1958	Chapter 2
B. List of Public Roads	Chapter 9
C. Business Directory	Chapter 10
D. Schools: Teachers and Staff, 1947-1957	Chapter 6



THE TOWN HALL

§ Appendix A.

TOWN OFFICERS: 1894; 1930; 1958

1894

Town Clerk	Edward S. Kendall
Town Treasurer	Frank W. Fenno
Selectmen	Edwin L. Burnham Hobart Raymond Henry M. Weatherbee
Overseer of Poor	Edwin L. Burnham Hobart Raymond Henry M. Weatherbee
Assessors	William H. Carter Charles H. Dupee Judson Foster
Superintendent of Highways	Edwin L. Burnham
School Committee	Mrs. K. Augusta Delva Daniel E. Hurd Frank A. Merriam
Constable	George W. Merriam
Registrars	George W. Bruce Edward S. Kendall Frank A. Miller Henry J. Partridge Frank M. Sawyer
Election Officers	Lyman Allen George W. Barnes Charles H. Dupee
Auditors	Caleb S. Merriam S. Dwight Simonds

1894

Fence Viewers

Edwin L. Burnham
Lyman M. Drury
Thomas S. Eaton

Field Drivers

Charles C. Dawley
Albert E. Gates
Stillman Whitney*Appointed Officials*

Collector of Taxes

Daniel C. Miles

Surveyors of Wood, Lumber,
and BarkSamuel K. Brown
Henry N. Derby
Walter H. Laws
Oscar B. Raymond

Fire Department

John C. Goodridge
Daniel C. Miles
Samuel H. Sprague

Library Committee

Miss Abbie S. Brown
Mrs. Arabella R. Hager
Mr. Hobart Raymond
Mr. Charles A. Simonds
Mrs. Sarah C. Warner

Street Railway Committee

Joseph Hager
Stephen F. Lamb
Daniel C. Miles
Marcus M. Nichols
S. Dwight Simonds
Augustine Whitney
Theodore S. Wood

Legislative Committee

Hobart Raymond

Judicial District Committee

Hobart Raymond

Cemetery Commissioners

Joseph T. Marshall
Harvey L. Pierce
E. W. Raymond
Hobart Raymond

1930

Moderator	Arno E. Hurd
Town Clerk	Charles F. Giles
Treasurer	Frank W. Fenno
Selectmen	Lucius W. French Harold D. Merriam Edward R. Miller
Board of Public Welfare	Lucius W. French Cyrus T. Miller Maud I. Miller
Assessors	Henry L. Curtis Arno E. Hurd Emory J. Raymond
School Committee	Arno E. Hurd E. Frances Merriam Ernest M. Vieweg
Library Trustees	Maurice P. Billings Frank W. Fenno Lucy M. Giles Ida E. Merriam Cyrus T. Miller Sarah J. Wyman
Cemetery Commissioners	Windsor F. Neal Frank S. Parks Elmer E. Walker
Hager Park Commissioners	Carlos E. Barron Frank W. Fenno Floyd W. Vincent
Tax Collector	Windsor F. Neal
Constable	Harold A. Towle
Tree Warden	Emory J. Raymond
<i>Appointed Officials</i>	
Measurers of Wood, Lumber, and Bark	Edward R. Flagg Edward F. Hetu

1930

	Arno E. Hurd
	Arthur E. Merriam
	Frank S. Smith
	Henry Waltonen
	Wickliffe H. Waterhouse
	Emil Wuth
Finance Committee	Charles B. Dawley
	Philip H. Loughlin
	C. Herbert Mansur
Town Accountant	Florence B. Rice
Agricultural Director	Ernest M. Vieweg
Sealer of Weights and Measures	Arno E. Hurd
Board of Fire Engineers	Herbert L. Rowe
	Frank S. Smith
	Raymond I. Stockwell
School Housing Investigation Committee	Frank W. Fenno
	Lucius W. French
	Arno E. Hurd
	Philip H. Loughlin
	E. Frances Merriam
	Wickliffe H. Waterhouse
	Ernest M. Vieweg
Water Committee	Carlos E. Barron
	Frank W. Derby
	Edward R. Miller
	Joseph F. Montville
	Herbert L. Rowe

1958

Moderator	John H. Lothrop
Town Clerk	Esther H. Hicks
Treasurer	James A. Adams

1958

Selectmen

Preston A. Baker
 Daniel J. O'Hearn
 Lennard C. Salo

Tax Collector

Florence B. Rice

Board of Public Welfare

Eva E. Coombs
 Kaino Poikonen
 Olive J. Rivers
 Eino W. Winter

Assessors

Elliott D. Halpin
 Eino N. Salo
 Howard W. Winter

School Committee

Stuart C. Butterfield
 Ruth J. Foster
 Joyce R. French
 Windsor P. Towle
 Herman C. Vieweg

Regional School Committee

Stuart C. Butterfield
 Victor E. Byron
 Melvin A. Hawes
 Gladys C. Leavenworth
 Paul H. Murray
 Ronald E. Snell

Library Trustees

Doris M. Fenno
 Edward W. Hitchcock
 J. Philip Howard
 Marion R. Noble
 Edwin M. Ruuska
 Theresa Torppa

Hager Park Commissioner

Peter V. Arcangeli

Constable

Toivo Tuominen

Tree Warden

Peter V. Arcangeli

Water Commissioners

George A. Henstridge
 John Ojala
 Ralph Owen

1958

Planning Board	Walter Engman June Johnson John Lothrop John McKinnon Frank Onischuk
<i>Appointed Officials</i>	
Town Accountant	Mary B. Wright
Measurers of Wood, Lumber, and Bark	Edward F. Hetu Arthur E. Merriam Ralph W. Young
Field Drivers	Preston A. Baker Daniel J. O'Hearn Lennard C. Salo
Fence Viewers	Alfred P. Jones Raymond I. Stockwell
Sealer of Weights and Measures	Edwin M. Ruuska
Town Co-ordinator	Raymond I. Stockwell
Town Director	Mildred G. Puranen
Cemetery Commissioner	Fred Chalmers
Advisory Board	Harry N. Howard Albert E. Luke Carl O. Maki Karl J. Malmgren T. Fraser Noble
Board of Fire Engineers	Burt P. Cummings John J. McConlogue Frederick J. Slade
Civil Defense Officer	Arthur J. Hunt
Highway Commissioner	Wilfred H. Goodridge
Superintendent of Water Department	Wilfred H. Goodridge
Veterans' Service Officer	Uno W. Ruuska

1958

Parks and Recreation Committee	Chester Baker Walker C. Brown Eino Haynes Arthur Hurd Gordon Leavenworth
Dog Officer	Leo C. Grenier
Inspector of Wires	George A. Henstridge
Barn and Animal Inspector	Eino W. Winter
200th Anniversary Committee	Sylvia Haynes Frank Onischuk Eino N. Salo Aili M. Wilen Walter Vieweg

LIST OF PUBLIC ROADS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
Academy Hill Street	Leominster Street to Worcester Road
Adams Street	State Highway No. 2 to end
Bacon Street	State Highway No. 2 to North Common Road
Barrell Road	Bragg Hill Road to South Ashburnham Road
Batherick Road	Depot Road to Howard Road
Battles Road	State Highway No. 2 to State Highway No. 2A
Bean Porridge Hill Road	State Highway No. 12 to South Ashburnham Road
Beech Hill Road	State Colony Land to Sargent Road
Bolton Road	West Princeton Road to Mile Hill Road
Bragg Hill Road	South Ashburnham Road to Ashburnham line
Brooks Avenue	State Highway No. 2 to end
Carter Road	Ellis Road to South Street
Church Street	State Highway No. 2 to end
Cody Road	Notown Road to gate
Cross Road	Knower Road to Minott Road
Curtis Road	Depot Road to Turnpike Road
Davis Road	Lanes Road to West Princeton Road
Dawley Road	South Street to Academy Hill Street
Dean Hill Cross Road	State Highway No. 12 to Dean Hill Road
Dean Hill Road	State Highway No. 12 to Fred Smith Road
Depot Road	Railroad Station to Leominster Street

WESTMINSTER
ALBUQUERQUE



WESTMINSTER
ALBUQUERQUE

§ Appendix B.

LIST OF PUBLIC ROADS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
Academy Hill Street	Leominster Street to Worcester Road
Adams Street	State Highway No. 2 to end
Bacon Street	State Highway No. 2 to North Common Road
Barrell Road	Bragg Hill Road to South Ashburnham Road
Batherick Road	Depot Road to Howard Road
Battles Road	State Highway No. 2 to State Highway No. 2A
Bean Porridge Hill Road	State Highway No. 12 to South Ashburnham Road
Beech Hill Road	State Colony Land to Sargent Road
Bolton Road	West Princeton Road to Mile Hill Road
Bragg Hill Road	South Ashburnham Road to Ashburnham line
Brooks Avenue	State Highway No. 2 to end
Carter Road	Ellis Road to South Street
Church Street	State Highway No. 2 to end
Cody Road	Notown Road to gate
Cross Road	Knower Road to Minott Road
Curtis Road	Depot Road to Turnpike Road
Davis Road	Lanes Road to West Princeton Road
Dawley Road	South Street to Academy Hill Street
Dean Hill Cross Road	State Highway No. 12 to Dean Hill Road
Dean Hill Road	State Highway No. 12 to Fred Smith Road
Depot Road	Railroad Station to Leominster Street

WESTMINSTER

WORCESTER COUNTY

WESTMINSTER.

- Adams C-5
- Bacon D-5
- Barre Rd D-1
- Batherick Rd E-5
- Battles Rd E-6
- Bean Hill Rd E-3
- Beech Hill Rd C-4
- Bolton Rd D-8
- Bragg Hill Rd D-2
- Erooks Rd C-5
- Carter Rd C-6
- Church C-6
- Cody Rd F-7
- Cross Rd C-7
- Curtis Rd F-5
- Davis Rd C-8
- Dawley Rd D-6
- Dean Hill Rd F-1
- Dean Hill Cross Rd F-1
- Depot Rd E-1
- East Rd F-5
- E-8 E-8
- E.Gardner Rd D-3-4
- Eaton C-5
- Elliot D-5-6
- Ellis Rd B-6
- Fitchburg State Hwy F-1
- Route # 2 A F-5
- Fitchburg Rd F-7
- Foster Rd D-6
- Fred Smith Rd F-1
- Frog Hollow Rd C-6
- Gardner Rd E-5
- Gate House Rd E-8
- Goodridge Rd D-5
- Hanks Hill Rd F-6
- Harrington Rd C-7
- Howard D-5
- Knowler Rd B-7
- Kurikka Pl. A-6
- Lanes Rd C-9
- Leominster Rd D-E-6
- Main D-6
- Mark Newton Rd A-7
- Marshall Hill Rd D-6
- Merriam Rd E-6
- E-9 E-9
- Mile Hill Rd A-6
- Minot Rd D-3
- Mossman Rd D-1
- Needham Rd E-5
- Newcomb Rd A-7
- Newton Rd C-6
- Nichols Rd

- Notown Rd F-7
- No.Common Rd D-4-5
- Old Ashburnham Rd D-3
- (4)
- Old Ashburnham Rd E-F-4
- Turnpike E-F-4
- Old Hubbardston Rd (3) C-7
- Old S.Hubbardston Rd (2) F-5
- Old Worcester Rd (5) D-6
- Overlook Rd C-4
- Page Rd E-3
- Park A-5
- Pleasant D-5
- Potato Hill Rd F-3
- Ridge St.East A-5
- Roper Rd F-5
- Route # 12 F-2
- Sargent E-5
- Seaver D-6
- Shady Av D-6
- Smith Av B-5
- South Rd C-5
- S- Ashburnham Rd C-6
- Spruce Rd D-2
- State Colony Rd C-7
- State Colony Rd B-4
- Stone Hill Rd F-6
- Syd Smith Rd D-4
- Turnpike Rd E-6
- Town Farm Rd D-5
- West Main E-4
- W.Princeton Rd D-8
- Willard Rd E-6
- Woods Rd D-1
- Worcester Rd D-7

STREETS INDICATED WITH A NUMBER.

- 2.Old S.Ashburnham Rd F-5
- 3.Old Hubbardston Rd C-7
- 4.Old Ashburnham Rd D-3
- 5.Old Worcester Rd D-6



SCALE IN MILES
1/2 1/4 0 1/2 2

37.10 Sq. Mi.

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East Gardner Road	Colony Drive to North Common Road
East Road	Worcester Road to Leominster Street
Eaton Street	State Highway No. 2 to end
Elliott Street	Bacon Street to State Highway No. 2
Ellis Road	Gardner line to Nichols Street
Elm Street	Howard Avenue to Lovewell Street
Fitchburg Road	Princeton line to Fitchburg line (State Highway No. 12)
Foster Street	Academy Hill Street to Dawley Road
Fred Smith Road	Dean Hill Road to State Highway No. 12
Frog Hollow Road	South Street to Carter Road
Gate House Road	Worcester Road to East Road
Goodridge Street	Bacon Street to end
Hank's Hill Road	Stone Hill Road to end
Harrington Road	South Street to Davis Road
Howard Avenue	Smith Avenue to end
Howard Road	Town Farm Road to end
Knower Road	Nichols Street to Hubbardston line
Kurikka Place	Minott Road to end
Lanes Road	West Princeton Road to Hubbardston line
Leominster Street	Depot Road to South Street and State Highway No. 2
Lovewell Street (Lovell)	State Highway No. 2 to end
Mark Newton Road	Newton Road to end
Marshall Hill Road	Leominster Street to Worcester Road
Merriam Road	State Highway No. 2A to State Highway No. 2A
Mile Hill Road	Worcester Road to Princeton line
Minott Road	South Street to Gardner line
Mossman Road	North Common Road to East Gardner Road
Needham Road	South Ashburnham Road to Ashburnham line
Newcomb Road	State Highway No. 2A to Batherick Road
Newton Road	Minott Road to Hubbardston line
Nichols Street	State Highway No. 2 to Knower Road

North Common Road	Overlook Road to South Ashburnham Road
Notown Road	Leominster Street to Fitchburg Road
Old Ashburnham Road	South Ashburnham Road to South Ashburnham Road
Old Ashburnham Turnpike	South Ashburnham Road to Fitchburg Line
Old Hubbardston Road	South Street to South Street
Old South Ashburnham Road	State Highway No. 2A to end
Old Worcester Road	Worcester Road to Marshall Hill Road
Overlook Road	Colony Drive to Bacon Street
Page Road	Bean Porridge Hill Road to gate
Park Street	Junction of Ridge Street and Ridge Street, East, to end
Pleasant Street	Bacon Street to State Highway No. 2
Potato Hill Road	Fitchburg line to Bean Porridge Hill Road
Ridge Street	State Highway No. 2 to end
Ridge Street East	State Highway No. 2 to Ridge Street
Ripley Road	Nichols Street to end
Roper Road	Fitchburg line to South Ashburnham Road
Round Meadow Road	State Highway No. 2 to Leominster Street
Sargent Road	Shady Avenue to West Main Street
Seaver Street	State Highway No. 2 to Leominster Street
Shady Avenue	State Highway No. 2 to State Highway No. 2
Smith Avenue	Nichols Street to Lovewell Street
Spruce Road	Davis Road to Old Hubbardston Road
South Ashburnham Road	State Highway No. 12 to Ashburnham line
South Street	Leominster Street to Hubbardston line
State Colony Road	West Main Street to Gardner line
Stone Hill Road	East Road to Leominster Street
Syd Smith Road	North Common Road to end

Town Farm Road	State Highway No. 2A to North Common Road
Turnpike Road	Fitchburg line to Leominster Street
West Main Street	Gardner line to State Highway No. 2
West Princeton Road	Worcester Road to Princeton line
Willard Road	Leominster Street to Depot Road
Woods Road	Barrel Road to Ashburnham line
Worcester Road	Leominster Street to Princeton line

TOTAL MILEAGE: 79.5+ miles

☞ *Appendix C.*

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

THE FOLLOWING listing is presented to give a reasonably complete picture of Westminster business, agricultural and professional activity in the year 1958. If any errors or omissions have occurred, they were unintentional.

MANUFACTURERS

<i>Name and number employed</i>	<i>Active since</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1. Advance Coatings 13	1935	Adhesives for packaging
2. Dawley and Shepard, Inc. 27	1828	Bakery—Crackers, etc.
3. A. Charles Hicks and Son 2	1947	Nails, boxes, etc.
4. New England Lumber Co. 3	1948	
5. C. L. Smith Corporation 12-24	1917	Boxes, lumber, timber
6. Young Brothers 7	1943	Lumber and boxes
7. Westminster Foundry 2	1948	Small castings

BUILDING CONTRACTORS

1. Victor Arcangeli 25	1938	Gen'l. construction
2. Albert J. Grenier 8	1919	“ “
3. Armand J. LaFosse 3	1954	“ “
4. Andrew Makela 5	1947	“ “
5. Wiktorski Brothers 3	1952	“ “

PLUMBING AND HEATING

<i>Name and number employed</i>	<i>Active since</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1. Dante P. Arcangeli 14	1947	
2. Harold E. Chalmers 1	1950	

GARAGES

1. Basha's Friendly Mobil Service Station 3	1955	
2. Bill's Service Station, Inc.	1956	
3. Burtt's Garage 4	1945	
4. Gil's Service Station 2	1951	
5. Henry's Service Station 1	1959	
6. Westminster Garage 2	1949	
7. Westminster Jenney Service Station 1	1959	
8. Phillips Auto Sales, Inc. 3	1953	
9. Andy's Auto Wrecking Service 2	1931	
10. Tuominen's Auto Body Company 2	1945	

BOTTLED GAS FUEL

1. Blu-Flame 1	1953	
2. Brandt Oil Service 2	1949	

TRANSPORTATION

1. Dee Transportation 8	1954	
2. S. & H. Transfer, Inc. 22	1955	
3. Flanagan's Bus Line	1924	

STORES

1. Nap's T.V. and Appliance 2	1952	
2. Westminster Pharmacy 5	1952	
3. Grahn the Florist 3	1949	Landscaping, greenhouse

STORES (*cont'd.*)

<i>Name and number employed</i>	<i>Active since</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
4. Log Cabin 4	1954	Nursery, garden supplies
5. Johnny's Market 6	1946	
6. Allard's Hardware 2	1954	
7. Frank's Wayside Furniture 3	1953	
8. French, Florist 2	1947	
9. Old Turnpike Antiques 2	1958	

LIQUOR

1. Del's Package Store		1955
2. Walt's " "	3	1948
3. Boudreau " "		1948

RESTAURANTS, LUNCH COUNTERS, ETC.

1. The Old Mill 175	1946
2. Cape Ann Diner 4	1948
3. Pantry Shelf 6	1953
4. Chat and Chew 6	1953
5. Silva's 4	1949
6. Picnic House 5	1949
7. Dairy Bar 4	1935
8. Village Motel 16	1954
9. Rambler Motel 5	1954

AGRICULTURE

1. Irving Hagg 2	1958	Poultry, broilers
2. Johnson and Sons 8	1926	Poultry farm
3. Aarne Lucander 2	1939	"
4. Axel Tuomi 3	1921	"
5. Arthur Jess 2	1957	Turkey farm
6. William Jamsa 2	1939	Poultry hatchery
7. Matti Cedar	1912	Dairy farm
8. Andrew VanHazinga 2	1921	"

<i>Name and number employed</i>	<i>Active since</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
9. Toivo Wainonen 2	1919	Dairy Farm
10. Leavenworth Dairy Inc. 7	1950	"
11. Toivo Lamsa 2	1948	"
12. Edwin E. Savilampi 3	1930	"
13. Roper Farm 3	1866	"
14. Arnold Lehtola 3	1947	Berries
15. Kaino Poikonen	1950	"
16. Toivo Nikki	1926	"
17. Eino Friberg	1955	Evergreens
18. Smart Rabbit Farm	1951	

BUSINESS OFFICES

1. Barron-Adams Insurance	1897	Insurance agency
2. Eugene Niemi Insurance	1953	"
3. Gardner Trust Company 2	1959	Branch Bank
4. Charles F. Hartwell 2	1950	Real estate

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Fred Savage 5	1947	Auctioneer
2. Gar-West 1	1946	Kennels
3. Spic-n'-Span 2	1958	Laundry
4. Spruce Manor 3	1955	Rest home
5. William Kultti 1	1953	Upholsterer
6. Baker's Dairy Inc. 13	1939	Distributors
7. Ivar Tiainen	1933	Painter

CLERGYMEN

1. John W. Morrow	1957	Congregational, ordained	1955
2. George F. Moore	1958	Baptist	" 1958
3. Bernard J. Conlin	1957	Catholic	" 1940
4. Leroy Philaya	1959	Lutheran	" 1959
5. Edward J. Abar	1902	Baptist retired	

PHYSICIANS

	<i>Arrived Here</i>	<i>Began practice</i>
1. Paul E. Dunn, M.D.	1932	1932
2. Beatrice Perkins-Shepard, M.D.	1940	1924

LAWYERS

1. J. Philip Howard	1939	1939
2. John H. Lothrop	1954	1954
3. Edwin E. Kaarela	1953	1953

Appendix D

WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS, TEACHERS
AND STAFF, 1947-1957

	<i>Year</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Resigned or Retired</i>
	<i>Engaged</i>		
W. Allan McCracken	1948	Supt. & Principal	Res. 1956
Catherine A. Sullivan	1929	Gr. 6	Res. '49
Josephine C. Melloon	1948	Jr. High	Res. '49
George Teravainen	1948	Jr. High	Res. '50
Mary B. Smith	1930	Gr. 6	
Bernice R. Hemmi	1945	Gr. 5	
Gladys B. Towle	1925	Gr. 4	
Helen P. Kendall	1947	Gr. 3	Ret. '52
Carrie I. Estabrook	1910	Gr. 2	Ret. '56
Doris M. Fenno	1920	Gr. 1	Ret. '50
Edna M. L'Ecuyer	1948	Gr. 1	
Fred Goodridge	1942	Custodian	Ret. '52
Herbert Scanlon	1949	Jr. High	Res. '51
Natalie Connors	1949	Jr. High	Res. '51
Rilla Martin	1949	Gr. 2	Res. '53
William Stone	1950	Gr. 6	Res. '51
Ann Bardol	1950	Gr. 2 & 3	Res. '52
Margaret Lawrence	1950	Gr. 2.	Res. '56
Raymond Bogosian	1951	Jr. High	Res. '53
Elinor McKinley	1951	Jr. High	Res. '52
Ann Shaughnessy	1951	Jr. High	Res. '53
Elaine (Ojala) Bowman	1951	Gr. 4 & 5	Res. '57
Grace Ward	1951	Jr. High	Res. '53
Olive Baker	1952	Jr. High	
Ruth Carlson	1952	Jr. High	Res. '56

	<i>Year Engaged</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Resigned or Retired</i>
Robert Duncan	1952	Jr. High	Res. '55
Jeanette Fortin	1952	Jr. High	Res. '53
Leona Gates	1952	Gr. 6	
Jeanne McGowen	1952	Gr. 4	Res. '54
Constance Chartrand	1952	Gr. 4	Res. '55
Mary Devenson	1952	Gr. 3	Res. '53
Gertrude Carll	1952	Gr. 1	
Wilho Aalto	1952	Custodian	
Phyllis McCaigue	1953	Jr. High	Res. '54
Dorothy Tucker	1953	Jr. High	
Anna Klemetti	1953	Gr. 3	
Margaret Sheldon	1953	Gr. 2	
Marilyn D. Smith	1953	Gr. 1	Res. '54
Edith A. Vine	1954	Jr. High	
John C. Baimas	1954	Jr. High	Res. '56
Robert Sasseville	1954	Jr. High	Res. '56
Beatrice Cross	1954	Gr. 2	
Louise Wells	1954	Gr. 1	Res. 55
Arthur Hurd	1955	Jr. High	
Mildred E. Tinker	1955	Jr. High	
Mary Asquith	1955	Gr. 6	Res. '57
Patricia Lasky	1955	Gr. 1	
Frank D. Lawler	1956	Superintendent	
Joseph Aveni	1956	Principal	
Robert Littlefield	1956	Jr. High	
Anne Pilkovsky	1956	Jr. High	
Norman Swicker	1956	Jr. High	Res. '57
Mary Burch	1956	Jr. High & Cafeteria	
Joan Hannon	1956	Gr. 5	
Theresa P. Skamarycz	1956	Gr. 5	
Carolyn Julian	1956	Gr. 4	Res. '57
Mary Morgan	1956	Gr. 4	
Clara DiNardo	1956	Gr. 2	
Gladys Ball	1956	Gr. 2	
Helge Best	1956	Custodian	

	<i>Year</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Resigned or Retired</i>
	<i>Engaged</i>		
Charles Atwood	1957	Jr. High	
Eino Heikkila	1957	Jr. High	
Marilyn Aveyard	1957	Gr. 6	
Charlotte Waterman	1957	Gr. 3	
Dr. Beatrice Perkins	1940	School Physician	Res. '57
Dr. Rocco Raduazo	1957	School Physician	
Lempi Aalto	1948	School Nurse	

PART II

The Genealogies

THE GENEALOGIES

THE PREPARATION of the Genealogies for this history was begun in January 1958 and took a little over three years to finish. We have tried to make the records which follow as complete and accurate as possible. The task was not easy because of the many different sources of information which had to be brought together, compiled, checked, and wherever possible re-checked. The generous response and co-operation of the great majority of Westminster families is genuinely appreciated; it did much to make our work more enjoyable and less difficult. There was much information, too, that we would have liked to include but were not able to because we have had to keep biographical data as brief as possible, since over 330 separate family records are listed; and we have had to omit a few families because we received no response to repeated inquiries. All the information sent us, however, is being preserved for reference in the files of the Historical Society.

The genealogies which follow are based on family questionnaires sent out in 1958 and on responses to notices which appeared in the Gardner and Fitchburg papers twice thereafter. Besides the information supplied to us directly by Westminster families, we also depended on vital statistics in the *Town Reports*. Two other sources were invaluable: one, the genealogies in the earlier *History of Westminster* by William S. Heywood, published in 1893, from which we have extracted information on the older families; the other, the unpublished material compiled by the late Carlos E. Barron. We are especially indebted to Mr. Barron and his assistant, Marion Roper Noble, for their labor of many years in extending the Heywood genealogies and bringing those family records up to the year 1943.

A large number of new families, which have made their perma-

nent residence in Westminster, have been added. We have included those new families which in 1958 had lived here for at least five years. Of necessity we have had to omit families which have died out or moved away, those which did not respond to inquiries, and the very new arrivals in town.

With regard to the old families—that is, those appearing in the Heywood *History*—we have not included complete genealogical lines because of the limitations of space in this book. Instead we have extracted the name of the progenitor and given the records of his recent descendants who are living or did live in Westminster. Those wishing to obtain the early records of these families will find them in the earlier *History* or among the files of the Historical Society.

The italicized numbers which appear in parenthesis next to the names of many in the old families refer to the numbers given the same persons in the Heywood *History*. They are included for easier reference.

As a rule we have not included births, deaths or marriages which took place after 1958. This limitation was necessary because of the great bulk of information coming in during that year, and because we wished to maintain a consistent pattern for all families.

Unless otherwise stated, persons were born, married or died in Westminster. In recent times when children have been born in hospitals, we have not been able to include this information.

The style and arrangement of the genealogies is based on common usage in other records of this type. Some abbreviations, also common to works of this kind, have been used and are self-explanatory.

IRENE F. RICE

AALTO

WILHO S. AALTO b. February 15, 1919, in Fitchburg; s. of Eino J. and Ella (Wuorinen) Aalto. Came to Westminster with his parents in 1933, and lived on South Street in the house now owned by William Gage. He m. January 27, 1945, Lempi H. Tuomi, b. December 22, 1918, in Quincy, dau. of Axel and Ida (Ilves) Tuomi. He is custodian of the Upton and Loughlin Schools and a veteran of WW II. Mrs. Aalto is also a veteran of WW II, Army Nurse Corps, and is now the school nurse.

Children:

1. Elizabeth A. b. November 17, 1945, in Gardner.
2. Mary E. b. September 25, 1946, in Gardner.
3. John S. b. August 27, 1948, in Gardner.
4. James R. b. September 10, 1949, in Gardner, d. September 17, 1949.

ABAR

THE REVEREND EDWARD J. ABAR b. August 11, 1874, in Pittsford, Vermont; s. of Joshua and Esther (Fredette) Abar. He m. February 14, 1914, Mary Knowler (17). (*See Knowler.*) He graduated from Crozier Seminary, Chester, Pa., in 1902; was ordained in the Baptist ministry and became pastor of the First Baptist Church, Westminster, in that year. He has held parishes in Fitchburg; Orange, Cal.; LaConner, Wash.; and Alton, N. H. Mr. and Mrs. Abar returned to Westminster in 1934, and since that time he has supplied many pulpits in this and surrounding towns.

Children:

1. Edith P. b. January 21, 1916, in LaConner, Wash., m. Homer Vine. (*See Vine.*)
2. Jean W. b. April 26, 1917, in Lincoln, Vt., Osteopathic Doctor in Cranston, R. I., m. Joan Libretti.
3. Marjorie M. b. May 11, 1919, m. Norman Gray, lives Oakfield, N. Y. 4 children.

ADAMS

In the large family of GEORGE (44) and MARY (Woodward) ADAMS, only one son and his descendants lived in Westminster: ALDIN F. ADAMS (54) b. January 29, 1839, d. June 10, 1915; his wife Eliza Ann Estey, b. June 15, 1837, d. February 28, 1920.

Children:

1. Addie Estey (57) b. December 21, 1869; m. Carlos Edwin Barron. (*See Barron.*)
2. Frank Aldin (58) b. August 28, 1871; m. June 25, 1902, Jessie G. Scott of Gardner, dau. of David and Jeannette (MacIntosh) Scott. They have always lived on Adams Street. He has been a Rural Mail Carrier, but both before and since his retirement he has devoted much time to farming. (Of late years he has been the only man in town to run a cider press.) His wife has taken an active interest in community enterprises. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1952.

Child of Frank Aldin Adams:

James Aldin b. September 1, 1904; m. on October 23, 1933 in Bronxville, New York, Ernestine E. Brewer, dau. of James and Ellen (Galliford) Brewer of Fitchburg. He graduated from Fitchburg High School and Bryant & Stratton in Boston. He also attended New Hampshire University. For a time they lived in his father's house. Later they purchased land on Adams Street that had formed a part of the Bruce estate, and built their home there. During WW II, Mrs. Adams served on the local Rationing Board. Mr. Adams served on the Board of Selectmen for one term. He is employed as cashier at the Worcester North Savings Institution in Fitchburg, and is a partner in the Barron-Adams Insurance Agency. Since 1951 he has been Town Treasurer.

Child of James Aldin Adams:

Ruth Ellen b. January 7, 1938; attended local schools, and is a student at Bates College.

ADAMS

CARL R. ADAMS b. September 13, 1927 in Brookline; s. of Carl V. and Anna (West) Adams; m. July 20, 1947, Ruth B. Burton, b. July 3, 1928, in Baltimore, Maryland, dau. of Frederick E. and Martha L. (Priebe) Burton. Mr. Adams moved his family to Westminster in 1954. He is a veteran of WW II; a conductor on the Boston and Maine Railroad. They live on Bolton Road.

Children:

1. Charles R., Jr. b. May 4, 1948, in Brookline.
2. Ruthanne A. b. May 2, 1950, in Cambridge.
3. John F. b. January 9, 1953, in Cambridge.
4. Janet E. b. September 18, 1954, in Cambridge.
5. Joseph M. b. December 10, 1956, in Cambridge.

AHLIN

RICHARD W. AHLIN, JR. b. March 22, 1930; s. of Richard W. and Bertha (Cook) Ahlin. He m. August 8, 1946, Sylvia E. Morse, dau. of Merrill E. and Catherine (Jones-Henry) Morse. They live on Main Street.

Children:

1. Richard M. b. August 17, 1952, in Fitchburg.
2. Philip C. b. May 28, 1956, in Fitchburg.

AHO

JAMES R. AHO b. September 22, 1928, in New Ipswich, N. H.; s. of Leonard A. and Lillian A. (Walkonen) Aho. He m. in Watertown, N. Y. August 19, 1950, Helen A., b. March 24, 1929, Watertown N. Y., dau. of Claude C. and Doris (Bibbins) Schrodts. He served in the Merchant Marine for two years and the U. S. Army from 1948-1951. They came to Westminster in 1951, living in a trailer at North Common until 1955, when their home was built on Old East Gardner Road.

Children:

1. Michael J. b. August 8, 1953, in Fitchburg.
2. Mark C. b. March 18, 1955, in Fitchburg.
3. Jill E. b. May 6, 1959, in Fitchburg.

ALBERT

RENE J. Albert b. January 5, 1926, in Fitchburg; m. November 4, 1944, Anna T. Baker, dau. of Chester W. and Delia (Jolly) Baker. (*See Baker.*) They have lived in Fitchburg and Westminster. He works for his brother-in-law at Baker's Dairy.

Children (all born in Fitchburg):

1. Sheila A. b. September 13, 1945.
2. Ronald R. b. July 1, 1948.
3. Steven P. b. March 23, 1950.
4. Sandra M. b. October 12, 1951.
5. Gary E. b. June 30, 1954.
6. Deborah L. b. August 14, 1957.

ALBRO

CHARLES W. ALBRO b. April 6, 1900 d. August 26, 1954, s. of Harry M. and Helen Mabel (Wood) Albro of Monson; m. December 26, 1931, Harriet M. (d. December 22, 1952), dau. of Charles L. and Mary W. (Morse) Smith. (*See Smith.*) They purchased the Mayo place on Main Street. He was employed in Gardner at the Florence Oil Stove Company. He was a member of the 1943 Water Committee, which made a complete report on a community water supply.

Child:

Harry Robert b. November 28, 1936; m. December 2, 1955, Geraldine C. Clayton, dau. of Ernest L. Clayton of Marietta, Georgia. He attended Westminster schools and Monson Academy; served in Army from February 17, 1954–July 15, 1957. They now live on Ellis Road.

Children of Harry Robert Albro:

1. Charles W. b. April 28, 1957, in Georgia.
2. Shaun R. b. July 8, 1958, in Gardner.

ALDRICH

RUSSELL F. ALDRICH b. June 18, 1892, in Fitchburg; s. of Moses D. and Nellie M. (Chapman) Aldrich; m. Sept. 21, 1920 Helen O. Austin, b. Jan. 28, 1895 in Fitchburg, dau. of La Forest P. and Mary (Otis) Austin. Their children were born in Fitchburg where they lived until 1952. Then they built a home on South Ashburnham Road. Mr. Aldrich is a long-time employee of Crocker-Burbank of Fitchburg, a veteran of WW I.

Children:

1. Lee A. b. January 3, 1924, in Fitchburg; m. September 18, 1948 Shirley Russell, b. March 6, 1927, in Gardner, dau. of Ernest H. and Jennie (Newton) Russell. Mr. Aldrich is employed by the N. E. Tel. & Tel. Co. He is a veteran of WW II. Mrs. Aldrich is at present serving on the School Board. They own their home on Lovell Street.
(*Children forward*)
2. Russell F., Jr., b. August 11, 1926, in Fitchburg; m. Dolores Lane; is an optometrist, has 2 children; lives in Manchester.

Children of Lee A. Aldrich:

1. Sharon b. October 31, 1950, in Fitchburg.
2. Heather September 1, 1953–September 29, 1953.
3. Joel J. b. August 18, 1956, in Fitchburg.

ALLARD

JAMES I. ALLARD b. November 25, 1909, in Malden; s. of Enos and Gertrude (Harris) Allard; m. March 21, 1942, in Worcester, Evelyn I. Swenson, b. April 10, 1916, in Worcester, dau. of Edward L. and Inez (Nelson) Swenson. Mr. Allard came to Westminster from Malden in 1946. He bought a home near the Hub-

bardston line and Mare Meadow. When Mare Meadow was acquired by the City of Fitchburg to increase its water supply, the Allard property was included in the transaction. At that time Mr. Allard built the property on upper Main Street which houses his growing hardware business and home. He was a plumber before starting the store.

Children:

1. Donna L. b. June 13, 1943, in Melrose.
2. Albert H. b. March 16, 1945, in Worcester.
3. Pamela J. } Twins b. October 31, 1950.
4. Edward P. }

ARCANGELI

(1) JAMES (GIACOMO) ARCANGELI b. July 8, 1876, d. April 2, 1946; s. of Peter and Anna (Ginnini) Arcangeli. He was b. in Italy and came to Westminster with his wife Maria (d. April 4, 1913) in 1902. One of the first of Italian descent to choose Westminster as his home, he won the respect and good will of all. Familiarly known as "Jack," he was employed by the Gardner Electric Light Company for thirty-five years, operating the electric power substation, reading meters, and checking street lights. He donated land on which the first Highway Department garage was built in 1923, and made the cement blocks for its construction. After WW II, he constructed an Honor Roll which was placed on the Library lawn and dedicated with appropriate exercises November 11, 1943. After the death of his wife, Maria, he married on December 12, 1914, Matilda Dagnese, b. August 19, 1896, d. July 25, 1958; born in Italy, dau. of Vincent and Anna (Rodriquenz) Dagnese.

(Children forward)

(2) LUIGI ARCANGELI brother of Giacomo; b. July 31, 1879; m. May 12, 1905, Pierena Censori, b. in Italy March 28, 1882. He first came to Westminster in 1906, but went back to Italy in 1908; he returned to Westminster in 1912 with his wife and two sons. Known as "Louie," he was a stonemason of ability before retirement. He was a familiar sight walking the Gardner, Westminster and Fitchburg trolley tracks with his grease pot before the days of

Flanagan buses. Mr. and Mrs. Arcangeli observed their golden wedding anniversary May 12, 1955, with an "open house" arranged by their children and held in the house built by them in 1923.

(Children forward)

Children of James and Maria Arcangeli:

1. Albert b. August 23, 1909; m. June 18, 1939, Marie Robillard, dau. of Walter U. and Georgiana (Fortier) Robillard. He followed in his father's footsteps and has been employed by Gardner Electric Light Company (now Worcester County Electric Company). He is line foreman. He bought the house on Leominster Street formerly owned by Mrs. Sarah Drury and has spent his married life there. Mrs. Arcangeli is an energetic woman, night operator for the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company for seven years until dial system was adopted in 1955. She is presently employed by Dawley and Shepard.

(Children forward)

2. Anna b. November 16, 1911; m. November 22, 1940, George Ford; resides in Templeton.
3. Amelia b. January 16, 1913, d. February 3, 1913.

Children of James and Matilda Arcangeli:

4. Jennie b. 1915, d. March 28, 1916.
5. Peter b. October 28, 1916; m. Rita M. Whitticum. He has served the town as constable and tree warden.

(Child forward)

6. Dante P. b. December 25, 1918; m. January 19, 1955, Taimi Hill of Fitchburg. He lives on Sargent Road and is a licensed plumber.

(Child forward)

7. Ida M. b. December 12, 1921; m. John Walinen; resides in Templeton.
8. Jennie b. May 8, 1925; m. Donald Mailloux; resides in Gardner. They have 1 child.

Children of Luigi Arcangeli:

1. Giocondo b. May 5, 1909, in Italy; associated with his brother Victor. He is a veteran of WW II.
2. Victor b. October 14, 1910, in Italy. He is a veteran of

- WW II. At one time he was Highway Department foreman. Interested in contracting business, he has several developments to his credit: each side of Main Street; east of Burtt's Garage and Cape Ann Diner; Church Street, where in 1950 land was given by him for St. Edward's Church. He was also connected with the construction of an addition to the Loughlin Junior High School, in 1952.
3. Virginia b. January 31, 1912, in Italy; remained with grandparents until 1932.
 4. Mary b. April 20, 1914.
 5. Antonia b. June 27, 1915, d. April 15, 1934.
 6. Joseph b. March 19, 1917; associated with brothers.
 7. Amelia b. May 24, 1919.
 8. Nazareno b. April 7, 1921, d. June 19, 1939.
 9. Anna b. July 17, 1923; m. May 27, 1944, Roger Mailloux of Templeton; lives off West Main Street. Children: Paul Alan b. June 25, 1948, Dennis R., b. June 13, 1952.

Children of Albert Arcangeli:

1. Nancy M. b. October 6, 1939; m. June 14, 1958, Carl Haaker, Jr. of Fitchburg.
2. James A. b. November 20, 1940.
3. Pauline C. b. March 20, 1942.
4. Betty Ann b. July 14, 1943.
5. Mary J. b. February 15, 1946.
6. John W. b. October 12, 1947.

Child of Peter Arcangeli:

1. Patricia May 14, 1956–May 14, 1956.

Child of Dante P. Arcangeli:

1. Kathie L. b. February 10, 1956.

AUTULA

BERNARD AUTULA b. October 23, 1921, in Fitchburg; s. of William and Anna E. (Saari) Autula; m. June 8, 1946, Viola K. Leino, b. February 25, 1926, in Gardner, dau. of Emil and Ida (Pelkonen) Leino. He is a veteran of WW II. They own their own home on Davis Road.



AN OLD STREET RAILWAY CAR



THE OLDEST HOUSE IN TOWN, BUILT 1737



THE SPITE WALL

Children:

1. Steven A. b. May 20, 1954.
2. Donna J. b. July 22, 1955.

AVENI

JOSEPH F. AVENI b. December 21, 1922, in Sandy Ridge, Pennsylvania; s. of Vincent and Dominica (Locicero) Aveni; m. December 29, 1954, Elizabeth L. Kelty, b. June 8, 1928. (See Kelty.) Mr. Aveni graduated from Fitchburg State Teachers College, Fitchburg, with Bachelor's and Master's degrees. He is Principal of the Loughlin School, and a veteran of WW II. They live on Main Street.

Children:

1. Gina M. b. December 18, 1955, in Gardner.
2. Joseph, Jr. b. January 4, 1958, in Gardner.

AZARIAN

GREGORY J. AZARIAN b. April 30, 1922, in Hartford, Conn.; s. of Hagop and Nevart Azarian; m. June 25, 1950, Phyllis W., b. Suffern, N. Y., May 30, 1926, dau. of Henry and Madeline (Mayer) WittPenn. He is a veteran of WW II. They came to Westminster in 1953, having bought of Mrs. Bertha Stowe the brick house on Academy Hill, long known as the "Ellen Wright" house. Mr. Azarian owns and operates a plastic business in Fitchburg.

Children:

1. Madeline C. b. December 15, 1952.
2. Margaret E. b. July 19, 1955.

BAKER

According to Heywood's *History of Westminster*, the Baker family was represented among the early settlers by two brothers, ROBERT and RICHARD. The present Baker family in Westminster

are all descended from ROBERT. The descendants of RICHARD for the most part settled elsewhere; his last descendants here died in 1945. (See Heywood's *History* for additional information.)

RICHARD BAKER Descendants:

1. Artemas J. Baker (29) b. September 28, 1868; m. January 15, 1891, Margie Ward Richard. They lived for a number of years in Westminster, later removing to Watertown.

Children:

1. Richard Merriam b. September 25, 1896.
2. Doris L. b. October 7, 1901.
3. Russell F. b. June 30, 1915.
2. Eva M. Baker (30) b. October 15, 1877, d. April 9, 1945; m. September 19, 1900, Luther F. Smith (d. May 20, 1914). She lived on Leominster Street, in the house now owned by Robert Bliss. Child: Clayton Baker Smith b. August 8, 1913 d. April 7, 1926.

ROBERT BAKER Descendants:

1. ELMER BAKER (63) b. 1788, d. March 31, 1852; great-grandson of Robert; m. Lucinda Conant. (See Heywood's *History* for details.)

Children:

1. Elmer (85) b. March 16, 1826, d. February 17, 1899; m. (2) Kate Merriam.

Child:

1. Lizzie E. Baker (101) b. June 4, 1867, d. November 6, 1944. She lived all her life in the Narrows. As long as her health permitted, she sang in the choir of the First Congregational Church (having started at the age of four when attending services with her parents). She sold her land bordering on Wyman's Lake to various persons, who formed the Baker's Grove Association for the protection and preservation of the Grove and surroundings. She never married.
2. Nathan Baker (86) b. December 7, 1831, d. October 6, 1898; m. Eliza A. Burnap (d. April 21, 1913).

Children:

1. Charles F. (102) b. October 4, 1854, d. December 24, 1926; m. Nellie E. Twichell.

2. Herbert W. (104) b. November 2, 1859, d. March 12, 1956; m. Nellie R. Carter (d. February 19, 1936.)
(*Children forward*)
3. Ada M. (105) b. October 3, 1861; m. Frank E. Kelty. (*See Kelty.*)
4. Nellie F. (106) b. February 7, 1863, d. August 2, 1915 in Concord; m. Charles F. Carter; resided Westminster, Gardner and Concord, New Hampshire; 3 children.
5. George L. (107) b. August 24, 1865, d. November 23, 1947; m. Gertrude Swan (d. January 16, 1947); lived in Rochester, Vermont.
6. Emma G. (109) b. August 7, 1871, d. December 26, 1944; m. Edward E. Young (d. January 12, 1942); lived in Gardner.
7. Edgar W. (110) b. October 27, 1873, d. December 21, 1926.

Children of Herbert W. Baker:

1. Amy Florence (d. February 21, 1956) m. March 2, 1904, Willam W. Benjamin of Springfield; 2 children.
2. Preston Earl (d. September 15, 1905, in Poughkeepsie, New York.)
3. Chester Warren b. January 28, 1889 (in Ashburnham), d. November 22, 1957; m. April 12, 1915, Delia Jolly of Fitchburg. The records of his children indicate that for some years he lived outside Westminster. After his return he occupied a house adjoining the Old Mill on Route 2A. He was an ice salesman in Fitchburg until WW II, at which time he took over the operation of his son's milk business and continued in that work until his death.

Children of Chester Warren Baker:

1. Preston A. b. June 3, 1916, in Gardner; m. September 6, 1937, Grace F. Jarvis of Fitchburg; dau. of Henry and Mary (O'Leary) Jarvis. They have lived chiefly in Westminster. In 1940 he erected a home on his father's land. He

is associated with his brother in the operation of Baker's Dairy. He has served on the Board of Selectmen for several terms.

(Children forward)

2. Rita A. b. March 21, 1918, in Gardner; m. Arvo M. Hannula of Gardner; 4 children.
3. Chester J. b. May 12, 1920, in Fitchburg; m. February 22, 1944, Catherine Sheppard, of Fitchburg, dau. of Frederick and Mary (Attridge) Sheppard. He established Baker's Dairy; served in Marines during WW II. He lives in the house he built next his father's home in 1948.

(Children forward)

4. Mary P. b. November 10, 1921 in Fitchburg; m. Alvin Gallant. (*See Gallant.*)
5. Anne T. b. November 8, 1925; m. Rene J. Albert. (*See Albert.*)
6. Pauline L. b. September 2, 1928; m. (1) Gerald Cormier; m. (2) Maurice Powell; no children.

Children of Preston A. Baker:

1. Warren b. September 5, 1938, in Gardner; student at Notre Dame University.
2. Donald b. September 1, 1940, in Gardner.
3. Judith b. December 23, 1942, in Gardner.
4. Preston b. January 25, 1946, in Gardner.
5. Dennis b. August 19, 1948, in Gardner.
6. Gail b. October 14, 1951, in Gardner.

Children of Chester J. Baker:

1. Chester W. b. July 24, 1945, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
2. James F. b. November 21, 1946, in Fitchburg.
3. Bruce R. b. April 12, 1948, in Fitchburg.
4. Kathleen M. b. May 9, 1952, in Fitchburg.
5. John F. b. August 11, 1957, in Fitchburg.

3. Levi Baker (89) b. January 12, 1837, d. September 22, 1911; m. Alice Foskett (April 12, 1843–June 24, 1917), dau. of John and Caroline (Phillips) Foskett.

Children:

1. Arthur L. (111) b. November 22, 1864; m. October 11, 1893, Minnie Smith; 2 children; lived in Natick.
2. Edith L. (113) b. November 9, 1869; m. Charles A. Marriner; 2 children; lived in Natick.
3. Gertrude E. (114) b. May 30, 1873, d. October 16, 1958; adopted 1 child.
4. Theodora A. (115) b. January 15, 1879; m. October 11, 1899, Arthur E. Smith of Natick; 1 child.
5. Anna E. (116) b. July 31, 1882; m. Harry H. Knower. (See Knower.)

BARRETT

ERNEST T. BARRETT Came to Westminster with his parents in 1908. He m. May 2, 1917, Lavina Rameau, who came here in 1901. They lived in the Narrows until 1921, when he built their present home on Route 2. He is a veteran of WW I. He is employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

Children:

1. Ernest W. b. April 10, 1918; d. May 8, 1918.
2. Wilfred T. b. September 4, 1920; d. September 26, 1926.
3. Ida H. b. April 2, 1922; m. Joseph Flynn; lives in Westminster; 1 child.
4. Edward E. b. February 17, 1924; unmarried; lives in Westminster.
5. Celia M. b. December 5, 1925; d. September 30, 1940.
6. Leo J. b. February 26, 1928, m. Shirley Drown; lives in Westminster; 4 children.
7. Roy J. b. December 19, 1929; m. Dorothy Withington, lives in Westminster; 1 child.
8. Alfred C. b. April 23, 1931; d. January 26, 1932.
9. Loring H. b. December 21, 1932; unmarried; lives in Westminster.

BARRON

WILLIAM B. BARRON b. April 24, 1820, in Keene, N. H.; s. of William and Cynthia (Metcalf) Barron. He lived on what is now Route 2A near the railroad underpass. (See Heywood's *History*.) He died in Westminster September 6, 1912, and his wife, Phoebe Estey of Roxbury, N. H., died April 24, 1903.

Children:

1. Florence A. (5) b. March 3, 1855; m. Edward B. Lynde. (See Lynde.)
2. Carlos E. (8) b. February 11, 1869; m. March 10, 1898, Addie E., dau. of Aldin F. and Eliza Ann (Estey) Adams. (See Adams.) He was an active and public-spirited citizen, serving the town in many positions of trust, including those of selectman and assessor. From 1892 to 1915 he was Postmaster. He was a Justice of the Peace continuously from 1902 until the time of his death. At one time he carried on a lumbering business with E. B. Lynde. For many years, he was in the real estate and insurance business. Both he and Mrs. Barron were among the most active members of the Westminster Historical Society. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. Mr. Barron's genealogical records of original families, kept until 1944, and Mrs. Barron's scrapbooks have been invaluable in compiling this work. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1948. Mr. Barron d. May 25, 1949; Mrs. Barron d. September 16, 1949.

BATTLES

ALTON BATTLES (3) b. April 6, 1853, d. September 8, 1919; s. of Thomas Willard and Eliza H. (Raymond) Battles; m. December 25, 1882, Emma E. Cummings (d. July 29, 1931) of Lyndeborough, New Hampshire, and always lived on the family farm, which was originally owned by his grandfather, Major Nathan Raymond.

Children:

1. Lulu Maria b. January 10, 1884; m. Fred Goodridge. (See Goodridge.)
2. Roger b. January 25, 1888; unmarried; veteran of WW I; resides on the family estate; mechanic for Westminster Highway Department.
3. Dorothy Raymond b. January 15, 1897; m. Arthur Eberhard of Springfield; resides in Springfield.
4. Herbert N. b. March 28, 1899; m. September 23, 1926, Elizabeth McNayr, dau. of Adelbert Seymour and Caroline Elizabeth (Griffin) McNayr of Pepperell. They lived here for many years before moving to Ashburnham in 1950. Mr. Battles is a house painter. He is known to all for his love of horses and dogs, and he is a fox hunter of considerable local reputation. For a number of years he served Westminster as Constable.

(Children forward)

5. Hester Irene b. August 15, 1903; m. Don Bennett; resides in Worcester.

Children of Herbert Battles:

1. Jean Caroline b. April 25, 1927, in Springfield; m. Donald M. Hoag; 2 children.
2. Jacqueline Helene b. August 25, 1928, in Gardner; graduated Worcester Trade School; m. Robert J. Baer; 2 children.
3. Wesley b. December 30, 1930; served 4 years in U. S. Navy; attending Fitchburg Teachers College; m. Norma Dragotti.
4. Janet Elizabeth b. April 2, 1933; graduate of Cushing Academy; while serving four years in WAF graduated from University of Nebraska; m. William R. Perrett; 3 children.

BATTLES

GEORGE A. BATTLES (14) b. December 8, 1850, d. August 23, 1943; s. of Alfred and Lydia (Kendall) Battles, was a lifelong

resident of Westminster; m. October 23, 1879, Mary Jane Clark of Princeton (d. January 26, 1943). Their home was on Bacon Street, where Edward Hitchcock now lives.

(Children forward)

FRANK H. BATTLES (15) b. January 25, 1853, d. August 28, 1922; m. Sarah E. Merriam, d. July 30, 1936, dau. of Francis and Eliza (Pratt) Merriam. They owned Robert Denton house on Bacon Street. He was elected to the Board of Selectmen for several terms. He engaged in several businesses, in all of which he prospered. Among them were the meat business with E. B. Lynde, the lumbering business with Fred Goodridge, and the cracker-making business with the Dawleys.

Children of George A. Battles:

1. Mary Alice (17) b. May 11, 1882, d. March 18, 1907.
2. Alfred Justin (18) b. July 3, 1884; m. Linda Oliver; resides in Providence; 1 child.
3. Edna Louise (19) b. September 11, 1886; unmarried; teacher in New Rochelle, N. Y., retired in 1954; lives in Warren.
4. Maud E. (20) b. January 3, 1889; m. James T. Hayton (b. August 18, 1889, d. November 11, 1956) of Princeton; resides in Warren; 2 children.

BAUM

RUSSELL BAUM b. March 11, 1915, in Fitchburg; s. of Oscar and Evelyn (Rawle) Baum; m. October 12, 1939, Helen Smith, b. January 14, 1916, in Springfield, dau. of George and Martha Smith. They lived in Leominster, coming to Westminster in 1945, when they bought the Kenney place on Ellis Road. Mr. Baum is employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

Children:

1. Judith b. February 10, 1941, in Leominster.
2. Vicki b. July 13, 1944, in Fitchburg.
3. Jennifer b. January 24, 1946, in Fitchburg.

4. Karen b. January 9, 1947, in Fitchburg.
5. Rawle b. March 5, 1949, in Fitchburg.

BEACH

FOSTER M. BEACH b. August 30, 1900, in Clinton; s. of Albert E. and Bertha (Crossman) Beach; m. December 3, 1931, Edith M. Toole, b. May 4, 1906, in Clinton, dau. of Patrick and Sara (Young) Toole. They came to Westminster in 1939, and lived on Bacon Street in the house now owned by Ellsworth Gale. Foster Beach later bought the Stiles house on Main Street. This he sold to Arvo A. Niemi in 1956, and built a new home on Lovell Street, where he now resides. Mr. Beach owns and operates Beach Company, Incorporated, a fuel oil business in Gardner. He is a former Chief of the Fire Department and a School Committee member.

Children:

1. Nancy A. b. March 1, 1933, in Clinton; m. December 13, 1952, Daniel Audino; 2 children: Gregg D., b. September 27, 1953, in Gardner; Michael F., b. April 30, 1956, in Gardner.
2. Janice M. b. April 16, 1936, in Clinton; a graduate of Children's Hospital, Boston.
3. Dorothy E. b. April 28, 1938, in Clinton; attending Westfield State College, Westfield.
4. David E. b. December 18, 1939, in Clinton; in U.S.A.F. Del Rio, Texas.

BEER

LEON BEER b. November 6, 1891, in Fitchburg; s. of Michael and Susan (Norman) Beer; m. August 24, 1925, Agnes L. Stone, b. July 12, 1894, dau. of Joseph and Ellen (Carney) Stone. He was employed by Crocker-Burbank and lived in Fitchburg until 1947, when he purchased his present home on Church Street. Mr. Beer retired in 1958.

BELL

WILLIAM C. BELL of Enosburg, Vermont, m. Abbie Cook, dau. of Rufus B. and Susan M. (Foskett) Cook of Westminster. He died many years ago; Mrs. Bell died May 22, 1946.

Children:

1. Ruby A. b. October 31, 1887, d. March 1, 1957; m. James E. Hackett of Fitchburg; no children.
2. Hervey W. b. April 9, 1890; m. August 14, 1923, Helen I. Cutter, b. December 11, 1893, in Ashburnham, dau. of James S. and Mary Ellen (Puffer) Cutter. He was Chief Engineer at Gardner State Hospital, retiring in 1949. He is a veteran of WW I. Since his retirement he and his wife have lived on Nichols Street in the house he built in 1949.

(Children forward)

3. Clarence R. b. October 13, 1893, d. March 14, 1953; m. Emma Worth of New Jersey; WW I veteran; 1 child.
4. Francis B. b. May 31, 1901, d. September 20, 1936; m. Bertha Taylor; no children.

Children of Hervey W. Bell:

1. Marjorie C. b. August 23, 1924; m. Robert Tebo; lives in Gloucester, Mass.; 2 children.
2. Roderick W. b. November 14, 1927, in Gardner; graduated from Northeastern; resides in Chicago.

BERNHARDT

CARL E. BERNHARDT, SR. b. November 24, 1894, in Stafford Springs, Conn.; s. of Carl Bernhardt; m. July 30, 1936, Della Y. Morin, b. August 18, 1906, in Fitchburg. He is a veteran of WW I.

Children:

1. Carl E. Jr. b. November 6, 1939, in Fitchburg.
2. Roger W. b. June 3, 1944.

BEST

HELGE H. BEST b. December 29, 1912, in Gardner; s. of John and Hilda (Norgord) Best; m. October 7, 1939, Rita E. Columbus, b. June 27, 1920, in Gardner, dau. of Edward and Marie (Demaris) Columbus. He is custodian of Public Schools and janitor of Westminster Public Library.

Child:

Robert H. b. October 29, 1940, in Gardner.

BIGELOW

FRANCIS B. BIGELOW (88) b. February 16, 1852, d. December 15, 1930; s. of Alexander and Lovisa (Darby) Bigelow; m. July 9, 1892, Charlotte H. Burnet of Lowell (d. May 16, 1958 in Springfield). He was a chairmaker.

Children:

1. Agnes Maria (89) b. May 22, 1893; unmarried; teacher in Springfield; retired in 1958.
2. Anna Frances (90) b. December 11, 1903, d. May 23, 1904.

BILLINGS

MAURICE P. BILLINGS b. November 2, 1902, in Tremont, Maine; s. of Alton and Bessie (Dow) Billings; m. February 11, 1927, Anna Ahlin, b. December 14, 1902, in Fitchburg, dau. of Claes and Emma (Ramgren) Ahlin of Westminster. He is a graduate of the University of Maine and came to Westminster in 1926 as Assistant Principal of the High School, being elected Principal in 1928, a position he held with credit until 1943. He bought the house on Bacon Street owned by Mrs. Marion Sawyer, now the home of the Walker Browns, and made his home there during his stay in Westminster. Mr. Billings served as Library Trustee and during

WW II on the Ration Board. In 1943 he became Superintendent of Schools of the District comprising the towns of Ashby, Lunenburg and Townsend.

Children:

1. Barbara L. b. May 5, 1931, in Gardner; m. Raymond A. Langille. They live in Ashby and have 3 daughters.
2. Maurice P. Jr. b. February 14, 1933, in Gardner, a graduate of Harvard; Senior Engineer for Martin Aircraft of Baltimore, Md.

BILSON

KIRWAN J. BILSON b. January 20, 1889, in Rockville, Connecticut; s. of Albert and Sarah J. (Charmbury) Bilson; m. November 1, 1913, Mary A. Wild, b. November 19, 1888, in Versailles, Connecticut, dau. of Samuel E. and Hannah (Hargreaves) Wild. They lived in Fitchburg before coming to Westminster (about 1920). In 1925, Mr. Bilson and the late Aaron Terrill bought the grocery store and meat market previously operated by Newton and Russell in the Brick Store. Mr. Terrill retired in 1936. Mr. Bilson continued alone in the business until 1954, when he sold to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Denton, and also retired.

Children:

1. Kirwan A. b. November 30, 1921, in Fitchburg; m. June 29, 1946, in Boston, Taimi L. Siiteri, b. September 2, 1918, in Gardner, dau. of Adiel and Eliini (Sarviranta) Siiteri. He served in the U. S. Coast Guard during WW II; since that time he has been a Merchant Seaman, having served twelve years. They bought their present home on Bacon Street in 1955. Mrs. Bilson is employed by Waters & Waters, Accountants, in Gardner.

(Child forward)

2. Edwin H. b. May 29, 1926, in Worcester; m. Mary S. Medera; lives in California; no children.

Child of Kirwan A. Bilson:

Janet Susan b. August 6, 1949, in Clearwater, Florida.

BIZZOTTO

DOMINIC BIZZOTTO b. January 8, 1909, in Italy; s. of John and Santna (Campagiollo) Bizzotto; m. June 29, 1935, Dora Cuiffette, b. June 7, 1916, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, dau. of Nazzereno and Virginia (Censori) Cuiffette. He came to Westminster in 1952, and with his brother-in-law, Ralph Delmonico, built their house on Church Street. He works for the Angel Novelty Company in Fitchburg, as a cabinetmaker.

BLACK

WILLIAM J. BLACK (1) (d. August 15, 1929, at the age of 76) and his wife Luna Josephine Harrington (d. September 1, 1949) occupied the Reed Merriam place. For a number of years he drove the school children from the Black's Corner district to the center school, in addition to operating his farm. His widow remained on the farm, one of the few who did not move into the center of town with advancing years. She cast her first vote at the age of 90.

Children:

1. Carlton Lansford (2) b. Sept. 14, 1882; m. January 20, 1909, Bertha B. Richards of Royalston, dau. of Marcellus and Hattie (Upham) Richards. They now occupy a house near the paternal home and he is a farmer, although for several years they lived outside of Westminster.

(Children forward)

2. Harry William (3) b. Aug. 30, 1885; unmarried; railroad clerk; retired 1950; resides Westminster.
3. Susie May (4) b. Jan. 5, 1888, d. February 14, 1898.
4. Everett H. (5) b. September 4, 1890; m. Cassen Hicks; has 3 children, resides in Gardner.

Children of Carlton Lansford Black:

1. Lawrence Oliver b. March 8, 1909; m. Esther Lindsey, has 2 children, resides So. Athol.
2. Lena I. b. June 17, 1910; unmarried.

3. Dorothy E. b. December 30, 1912; unmarried.
4. Phyllis b. April 13, 1917; unmarried.

BLISS

ROBERT W. BLISS b. January 8, 1921, in Paxton; s. of Donald C. and Florence (Clough) Bliss; m. May 23, 1942, Lois E. Gates, dau. of Ellsworth C. and Pearl (Wares) Gates of Fitchburg. They lived in Ashburnham, and in 1953 bought a house on Leominster Road, where they now live. Mr. Bliss is a veteran of WW II and the Korean conflict.

Children:

1. Donna R. b. March 29, 1943 in Fitchburg.
2. Jon R. b. November 7, 1946 in Fitchburg.
3. Robert C. } Twins b. May 13, 1952, Sampson AFB.
4. Donald M. }

BOREY

NELSON A. BOREY b. September 24, 1915, in Gardner; s. of Fred L. and Carrie (Ring) Borey; m. June 29, 1951, Alice E. Jokinen, b. May 28, 1925, in Fitchburg, dau. of Otto W. and Martha M. (Louva) Jokinen. Mr. Borey is a veteran of WW II. In 1954 they bought the house on upper Main Street where they now live.

Children:

1. Nancy A. b. July 29, 1952, in Fitchburg.
2. Donald A. b. September 5, 1954, in Fitchburg.
3. Susan J. b. May 26, 1957, in Fitchburg.

BOUCHER

MAURICE A. BOUCHER b. February 21, 1928, in Winchendon; s. of Ovilla and Annabell (Laplante) Boucher; m. November 23, 1950, Edith Mattson, b. November 30, 1928, in Gardner, dau. of Yalmar and Bertha (Kurikka) Mattson. He is a veteran of WW II. They live at Minott Corner, on the former Kurikka place.

Children:

1. Rene A. b. April 13, 1955, in Fitchburg.
2. Darlene b. February 11, 1956, in Gardner.

BROWN

WALKER C. BROWN b. April 6, 1898, in Winchester; s. of Cyril E. and Susan A. (Walker) Brown; m. November 11, 1939, Althea Willard, b. August 31, 1907, in Orange, dau. of Leroy and Therese (Seaver) Willard. Mr. and Mrs. Brown came to Westminster in 1942 and in 1943 bought from Maurice P. Billings the former Marion Sawyer place on Bacon Street, where they now live. He is a long-time employee of General Electric Company in Fitchburg; is a veteran of WW I. Mrs. Brown is a graduate of Burbank Hospital School of Practical Nursing.

Child:

Margery U. b. July 6, 1940, in Montague; a student nurse at Worcester Memorial Hospital, Worcester.

BRUCE

GEORGE W. BRUCE. (13) b. January 30, 1850, d. January 12, 1933; s. of James R (6) and Lucinda (Seaver) Bruce; m. June 14, 1874, Helen Fenno, b. November 1, 1855, d. November 11, 1937, dau. of Franklin B. and Mahala (Estabrook) Fenno. (See Fenno.) Mr. Bruce was the last member of a family which settled in Westminster in the early 1800's. He occupied the house (now owned by Albert Rossner) next to the grocery and feed store that he operated for many years. He sold the business in 1914 to his brother-in-law, Edgar E. Fenno. Mr. Bruce was a quiet, unpretentious man of excellent habits and character. He served on the Board of Registrars for many years.

BUCKMAN

WILLIAM BUCKMAN m. September 15, 1909, Delia Barrett, sister of Ernest and Lewis Barrett.

Children:

1. Beatrice B. b. November 12, 1912; m. George Thomas. (See Thomas.)
2. Harold W. b. December 10, 1915; m. February 28, 1938, Ruby M. Lawrence, b. May 29, 1916, in Fitchburg, dau. of George C. and Emma (Roots) Lawrence. They own their home on Elliott Street. Mr. Buckman is an active member of the Westminster Fire Department and is employed by the Fitchburg Engineering Corporation.
(Child forward)
3. Lillian D. b. September 13, 1921; m. Harold Muhonen.
4. Robert E. b. February 22, 1928; m. Barbara Hamlett; has 2 children; owns home on Leominster Street.

Child of Harold W. Buckman:

Mark A. b. March 25, 1943, in Gardner.

BUFFONE

ANGELO F. BUFFONE s. of James and Maria Buffone; came to Westminster from Gardner with his family and bought of Harold Towle, Sr., the house on Nichols Street where they now live. Mr. Buffone is a WW II veteran. Mrs. Buffone, the former Serena Norris of Gardner, is a member of the Gardner Theater Guild.

Children:

1. Janice R. b. August 13, 1945, in Worcester.
2. John M. b. August 23, 1946, in Worcester.
3. Richard A. b. December 10, 1951, in Gardner.

BUTTERFIELD

VANCE L. BUTTERFIELD b. August 19, 1904, in Weld, Maine; s. of George W. and Gaylie E. (Blodgett) Butterfield; m. in Northbridge, October 10, 1925, Doris I. Clifford, b. October 4, 1903, in Grafton, dau. of Nathan S. and Maude A. (Bonn) Clifford. They came to Westminster in August, 1930, first making their home in the center of town, but in 1946 buying a house on

Minott Road. Mr. Butterfield works for Simplex Time Recorder Company of Gardner and has served on the Welfare Board.

Children:

1. Ruth A. b. May 17, 1927, in Northbridge; graduated Clark College; m. Charles E. Robinson of Petersham.
2. Stuart C. b. July 2, 1928, in Northbridge; m. April 16, 1949, Aino L. Hintala, b. March 2, 1930, dau. of Eino J. and Aino A. (Masselin) Hintala. He works for Simplex Time Recorder Company of Gardner, and is currently a member of the school committee.

Children of Stuart C. Butterfield:

1. Vance A. b. July 28, 1951, in Gardner.
2. Nadine L. b. April 20, 1953, in Gardner.

CARLL

ARNOLD B. CARLL b. May 30, 1919, in Winchendon; s. of Arthur B. and Gertrude M. (Roberts) Carll; m. May 12, 1943, Gertrude Hermanson, b. December 12, 1920, in Gardner, dau. of John E. and Edith E. (Anderson) Hermanson. They came to Westminster in 1955 and bought a house on Dawley Road. Mr. Carll is a veteran of WW II. Mrs. Carll is a teacher in the Westminster School System.

Child:

Sally Ann b. May 21, 1946, in Gardner.

CARON

RAYMOND J. CARON b. June 18, 1911, in Fitchburg; s. of Ferdinand and Pamela (Fournier) Caron; m. in Otter River June 29, 1935, Leonora M. Cichy, b. May 20, 1910, in Turners Falls, dau. of Teophil and Flora (Golon) Cichy. They came to Westminster in 1942 and built their house on South Street. He works at Norton Company, Worcester.

Children:

1. Constance H. b. May 17, 1937 in Baldwinsville, m. Ewald A. Johnson April 14, 1956.
2. Stanley R. b. September 17, 1943, in Fitchburg.

CARTER

WILLIAM H. CARTER (21) b. March 21, 1840, d. May 27, 1925, and his wife, Ellen R. Dike; (d. May 17, 1929), occupied the Miles farm on Carter Road, now the home of Richard Lawrence.

Children:

1. Ethel M. (22) b. October 18, 1874, d. November 23, 1941; m. Ernest Harrington. (*See Harrington.*)
2. Conrad C. (23) b. October 2, 1881, d. September 12, 1895.

CAVAN

EDWARD J. CAVAN b. May 11, 1916, in Plains, Pa.; s. of James A. and Eleanor L. (Gavin) Cavan; m. June 18, 1938, Thelma L. Preston, b. November 8, 1918, in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., dau. of Joseph W. and Jennie F. (Klientob) Preston. He attended public school in Wilkes-Barre and was graduated from Siena College in Loudenville, N. Y. He is a veteran of WW II. He worked for General Electric Company in Schenectady, N. Y., and after being transferred to Fitchburg moved with his family to Westminster. In 1948 he purchased the house on Main Street formerly owned by Bigelow Crocker, Jr.

Children:

1. Carolyn P. b. March 17, 1946, in Albany, N. Y.
2. Holly B. b. April 10, 1947, in Troy, N. Y.

CHALMERS

HAROLD E. CHALMERS b. August 27, 1909, in Fitchburg; s. of Fred and Isabelle (Charlton) Chalmers; m. August 27, 1930, Ruth

M. Faulkenham, b. December 6, 1913, in Framingham, dau. of Maurice and Carrie (Gates) Faulkenham. They came to Westminster in 1942 and lived in several places until he built his present house in 1948 on Carter Road, overlooking the village. He was associated with his father in the plumbing business until the latter retired—and since then he has continued alone. He is a veteran of WW II.

Children:

1. Ruth E. b. June 24, 1931, in Leominster; m. James P. Grant; lives in Sharp Park, Cal.; 2 children.
2. Grace L. b. January 15, 1935, in Leominster; m. Richard O. Erickson. (See Erickson.)
3. James A. b. July 18, 1943, in Boston.

CHARLES

URBAN J. CHARLES b. November 20, 1912, in China, Maine; s. of Harold J. and Inez V. (Hisler) Charles; m. April 28, 1938, Yvonne M. Bouin, b. July 29, 1912, in Boston, dau. of Clement and Marie L. (Gomy) Bouin. He attended the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts, and has been head farmer at Gardner State Hospital since 1938.

Children:

1. Joan M. b. December 27, 1939, in Gardner.
2. Janyce C. b. April 7, 1942, in Gardner.
3. Sarah I. Twins b. June 8, 1944, in Gardner.
4. Sandra Y.

CHRISTIAN

EDWARD J. CHRISTIAN b. February 28, 1915, in Holyoke; s. of Edward and Anna (Delorme) Christian; m. Eleanor Sylvester, b. June 22, 1920, in Montgomery, Vermont, dau. of Philip and Emma (Peronto) Sylvester. Came to Westminster in 1954. He is a veteran of WW II. Mrs. Christian is a registered nurse and was in service in the Navy during WW II. They live on North Common Road.

Children:

1. Edward J. b. June 18, 1948, in Brattleboro, Vt.
2. Joan E. b. June 2, 1951, in Brattleboro, Vt.

CLARK

COLONEL HARRY A. CLARK b. February 13, 1885, in Gardner; s. of Ainsworth and Sarah E. (Herndon) Clark; m. July 10, 1912, Grace E. Urban (3) b. August 22, 1887, dau. of G. Frank (1) and Emma K. (Merriam) Urban. He graduated from Tufts in 1910 and served on active duty in the United States Army Medical Corps from July 13, 1917–January 31, 1950, when he was retired with rank of colonel. From November 1, 1950, he served eight years as Supt. of the Lakeville State Sanitorium. Mrs. Clark graduated from Sargent School of Physical Education in 1910. In October, 1958, they bought of Mrs. Laura Miller her house and the Brick Store on Main Street, and came here to make their home.

Children:

1. Elizabeth M. b. September 13, 1930, Cristobal, Canal Zone; d. October, 1931.
2. Barbara U. b. August 5, 1915, in Port Lima, Costa Rica; m. James M. Humphreys; lives in Marfa, Texas; 3 children.
3. Harry A., Jr. b. March 21, 1917, in North Andover; graduate of West Point; m. Frances C. Tully; serving in United States Army with rank of lieutenant colonel; 7 children.

CLARK

WILTON CLARK b. March 18, 1903, in Washington, Maine; s. of Charles and Minnie (Carroll) Clark; m. January 10, 1926, Esther B. Baker, b. November 3, 1907, in Winterport, Maine, dau. of Henry and Josie (Colley) Baker. Mr. and Mrs. Clark are employed at the Gardner State Hospital and own the former Prescott place on South Street, which they purchased in 1939.

Child:

- Murry b. June 24, 1936, in Gardner. Employed at Gardner State Hospital.

CONANT

OTTO H. CONANT b. July 18, 1888, in Weld, Maine; s. of Albertus E. and Dora (Robertson) Conant; m. March 14, 1914, Annie L. Machen, b. December 7, 1892, in Philadelphia, dau. of Thomas E. and Nellie (Shaw) Machen. He settled in Westminster, buying a home on West Main Street, where he has since lived. Now retired, he worked for the Gardner, Westminster and Fitchburg Street Railroad Company, and Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

Children:

1. E. Elizabeth b. January 30, 1916; m. April 7, 1951, René J. Poirier; lives in Westminster; 1 child.
2. Richard H. b. April 15, 1921; m. May 31, 1947, Stefora Celona of Fitchburg; veteran of WW II; lives in Fitchburg; 2 children.
3. Marguerite D. b. May 30, 1927, d. May 20, 1937.

COOMBS

JESSE F. COOMBS b. May 6, 1848, d. February 16, 1926; m. November 13, 1910, Florence Fairfield, b. August 16, 1893, in Seekonk, dau. of Samuel and Martha (Vinton) Fairfield. He was a native of Monmouth, Maine, and served in the Civil War. He came to Westminster in the spring of 1913, as superintendent of the prison camp on Wachusett Mountain State Reservation. After its closing in 1916, he moved with his family to the center of town. Mrs. Coombs still lives in the house on Nichols Street formerly owned by Francis Nichols.

Children:

1. Francis E. b. September 19, 1914; m. August 13, 1939, Eva E. Gage. (*See Gage.*) He works for the Simplex Time Recorder Company of Gardner. Mrs. Coombs is a member of the Board of Public Welfare.

(Child forward)

2. Olive J. b. August 22, 1916 in Fitchburg; m. George Rivers. (*See Rivers.*)

Child of Francis E. Coombs:

Brian F. b. January 22, 1944, in Fitchburg.

COSSABOOM

GUY L. COSSABOOM b. June 27, 1892 in Gardner; s. of Abner W. and Henrietta (Clark) Cossaboom; m. September 20, 1918, Mildred S. Williams, b. December 3, 1890, in Gardner, dau. of John R. and Arvilla V. (Brown) Williams. Mr. Cossaboom moved with his family to Westminster in 1937, when he bought the Peabody house on Bacon Street. He is a retired employee of General Electric Company, Fitchburg; has served the town on the Finance Board, Ration Board (WW II), and School Committee.

Child:

Janet L. b. September 17, 1925, in Fitchburg; m. Arlington K. Stewart; lives in West Acton; 3 children.

COTTON

GEORGE COTTON b. September 25, 1889; s. of John H. and Nali (Tokalia) Cotton; m. October 25, 1916, Mary E. Boeckel, b. March 12, 1895, in Locust, New Jersey, dau. of Louis and Isabella (Begant) Boeckel. In 1920 they bought the George Harris place at the corner of Willard Road and Leominster Street, and since then Westminster has been their permanent home. Mr. Cotton was employed by the Davey Tree Expert Company, working in many states. For twenty years he was manager at Monmouth City, New Jersey. He retired in 1957.

Child:

Mary Virginia b. March 31, 1921; m. George Cole Toop; lives in Lincroft, New Jersey; 4 children.

CRAND

RICHARD G. CRAND b. May 25, 1928, in Concord, N. H.; s. of John J. and Catherine (Dawson) Crand; m. May 7, 1949, Helen

M. LeBlanc, b. June 6, 1924, in Fitchburg, dau. of Arthur and Edna (Boudreau) LeBlanc. They came to Westminster in 1953 and own their home on Carter Road. He is a veteran of WW II.

Children:

1. Steven W. b. April 22, 1950, in Gardner.
2. Sharon M. b. June 23, 1954, in Fitchburg.
3. Sheila A. b. April 8, 1956, in Fitchburg.

CROSSMAN

GERALD U. CROSSMAN b. April 2, 1913, in Amherst, N. S.; son of Milledge and May (Wright) Crossman; m. October 15, 1938, Evelyn M. Burns, b. January 1, 1914, in Fitchburg, dau. of William and Doris (Rhodenizer) Burns. The Crossmans live on Depot Road in the house they built in 1952.

Children:

1. Jean M. b. June 25, 1939, in Fitchburg; graduate of Chandler School.
2. Carol A. b. April 1943.

CUMMINGS

BURTT P. CUMMINGS b. February 17, 1910, in Brockton; s. of Burtt L. and Bertha (Totman) Cummings; m. March 21, 1935, Emelie Olson, b. May 23, 1913, in Gardner, dau. of N. John and Selma (Anderson) Olson. Mr. Cummings came to Westminster with his parents in 1921. He operates Burtt's Garage on Main Street, and is an Engineer in the Fire Department. Mrs. Cummings is a registered nurse, and active in civic affairs. They own their house on West Princeton Road, which they bought in 1937.

Children:

1. Nancy E. b. May 23, 1936, in Gardner; married November 2, 1958, James H. Brideau; 1 child.
2. Burtt O. b. May 14, 1938, in Gardner; married Theresa Albro; is associated with his father in the garage.

Child:

Burtt Alan b. September 8, 1958.

CURRAN

RALPH A. CURRAN b. August 7, 1921, in New Ipswich, N. H.; s. of James A. and Bernice (Whitney) Curran; m. April 21, 1945, Pauline M. O'Connor, b. November 8, 1923, in Fitchburg, dau. of Harold J. and Beatrice (Baribeau) O'Connor. Mr. Curran teaches in the Ashburnham School System. He is a veteran of WW II. They live at Grassy Pond, where they bought their place in 1950.

Children:

1. Thomas D. b. October 11, 1951, in Gardner.
2. Jonathan R. b. November 18, 1956, in Gardner.
3. Kathlyn M. b. September 4, 1958, in Gardner.

CURTIS

FRANCIS CURTIS The first Curtis to settle in Westminster; he was taxed here in 1807. From him are descended:

FRANK A. T. CURTIS (14) b. August 7, 1857, d. May 27, 1937; s. of Alonzo (11) and Mary (Lothrop) Curtis; m. June 7, 1883, Jennie E. Lucas, b. July 20, 1857, d. January 13, 1945, dau. of Henry and Jane (Henderson) Lucas. He was a farmer and lived all his life on the family place, now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Florence Curtis Graustein.

Children:

1. Mary Florence (16) b. April 12, 1884; m. William C. Graustein; resided in Cambridge. She graduated from Wellesley in 1906 and received her degree of M.A. from Radcliffe in 1915 and her Ph.D. in 1917 from the same institution. She has always specialized in mathematics. She has taught at Wellesley and tutored at Radcliffe; she is now retired and makes her home on the family estate. No children.
2. Wolfred A. (17) b. September 9, 1885; married twice; resides in Florida; 1 child.
3. Herman N. (18) b. November 4, 1888; m. Mildred L. Shaw of Leominster; lives in Leominster; 2 children.

4. Henry L. (19) b. June 24, 1891, d. September 23, 1930; veteran of WW I; m. December 27, 1917, Marion F. Cross, dau. of C. A. and Sarah (Wright) Cross. They resided near his parents in Westminster. He was a member of the Board of Assessors and of the School Committee at the time of his sudden death.
5. Esther Jane b. January 21, 1896, d. November 6, 1956; m. George Mossman. (See Mossman.)

DAWLEY

CHARLES C. DAWLEY b. March 8, 1847, in Willington, Conn., d. May 28, 1911, m. November 26, 1868, Emma Dale (d. March 31, 1890), dau. of John Dale of Rutland. He came to Westminster in 1870 and operated a blacksmith shop in South Westminster. Later, in partnership with Frank Battles, he operated the Cracker Bakery in the center of town and lived in the house next door. After the death of his first wife, he m. October 5, 1892, Katie E. Merriam (d. April 24, 1932), dau. of Newell and Sarah (Whitney) Merriam.

Children:

1. Alice E. b. January 10, 1870, schoolteacher, m. Monroe Towle of Canaan, N. H. (See Towle.)
2. Albert D. b. February 4, 1873, d. September 8, 1874.
3. Charles Bertram b. June 10, 1877, d. April 28, 1933; m. June 12, 1906, Florence Timper of Boston, d. January 8, 1938. At one time he engaged in the cracker-making business. He lived on the present Smith estate on Academy Hill.
4. George Leonard b. January 31, 1879; m. November 21, 1903, Annabel Hutchins (d. July 31, 1955), dau. of Zebina Newell and Emily Porter (Hibbard) Hutchins of Bath, New Hampshire. They lived for a time in Somerville, and then returned to Westminster to occupy the house adjoining the Dawley Cracker Bakery. He was elected to the Board of Selectmen and to the School Board and was Representative from this district to the General Court. In association with various others he has operated the

Cracker Bakery, of which his son is now the owner. He now lives with his daughter, Mrs. Dunn, on West Main Street.

Children of George Leonard Dawley:

1. Helen b. August 19, 1905; m. Paul E. Dunn. (See Dunn.)
2. Porter Woodbury b. January 3, 1908; m. September 10, 1932, Frances B. Ferguson, b. in Scotland, dau. of John and Jean (Brown) Ferguson of Fitchburg. They live, as did his father, in the house next door to the Cracker Bakery. A graduate of Worcester Academy and the University of Michigan, he has figured in the athletic, musical and political affairs of the town. He has served on the School Board and the Board of Selectmen.

Children of Porter Woodbury Dawley:

1. Porter W., Jr. b. October 27, 1938; student at Bowdoin College.
2. David G. b. August 26, 1941; student at Dartmouth.

DELANEY

PAUL E. DELANEY b. January 8, 1916, in South Ashburnham; s. of Richard and Cora (Christian) Delaney; m. September 8, 1945, Joan H. Nowakowski, b. September 20, 1920, in Gardner, dau. of Stanislaw and Stefania (Kyls) Nowakowski. Mr. Delaney is a veteran of WW II. They came to Westminster in 1951, and live on North Common Road.

Children:

1. Stephanie J. b. May 3, 1950, in Worcester.
2. Denise M. b. November 26, 1951, in Gardner.
3. Margaret C. b. December 20, 1952, in Gardner.
4. Michael P. b. November 20, 1954, in Gardner.

DELMONICO

RALPH A. DELMONICO b. March 9, 1919, in Springfield; s. of Achille and Josephine (Demeo) Delmonico; m. June 26, 1946, Evelyn M. Cuiffette, b. June 14, 1924, in Westminster, dau. of Nazzareno and Virginia (Censori) Cuiffette. He came here in 1952 and with his brother-in-law, Dominic Bizzotto, built their house on Church Street. He is employed in Leominster.

Child:

Donna M. b. July 6, 1948, in Fitchburg.

DENTON

ROBERT M. DENTON b. December 12, 1899, in Templeton; s. of Carol L. and Lizzie E. (Merriam) Denton; m. September 15, 1926, Alberta M. Gilson, dau. of Louis B. (8) and Gertrude E. (Pratt) Gilson. (*See Gilson.*) After some years away from Westminster, they returned, and now occupy the Frances Merriam house on Bacon Street. For several years they owned and operated the Brick Store on Main Street, giving up the business in 1958, when the property was purchased by Colonel Clark. Mr. Denton is a book-keeper in Fitchburg. He has served as a Library Trustee. His mother, Mrs. Lizzie Denton, a descendant of the Merriam and Whitney families of Westminster, lived with them. (She d. September 18, 1958.)

DERBY

ANDREW DARBY came to Westminster in 1748 and is the ancestor of a number of the present citizens of the town, as well as the founder of a large family now widely scattered. No one bearing the name of Derby (or Darby as originally spelled) now lives here, the last of the direct line being Frank W., son of Henry N. (93) and Julia (Murphy) Derby.

FRANK W. DERBY (99) b. April 19, 1868, d. April 9, 1937, m.

April 12, 1893, Mary A. Rice (d. March 21, 1950), dau. of Joel and Mary (Whitney) Rice. (*See Rice.*) He followed several occupations. When rural mail delivery was begun in Westminster in 1901, Mr. Derby became the first rural mail carrier. He resigned in 1918 and thereafter worked in Gardner at chair factories. He served as Tax Collector, Selectman, Assessor, Moderator, and was a member of other committees.

Children:

1. Paul Edmund b. September 29, 1896; m. Mary (Merrill) Viall; 1 child; resides in Fitchburg.
2. Ruth Laura b. December 10, 1898; m. Roger M. Greenwood of Gardner; 3 children; resides in Northfield.

DEXTER

MINNIE E. DEXTER b. October 19, 1871 in West Boylston, d. January 21, 1950; dau. of Henry H. and Sarah (Merriam) Dexter. Unmarried. She came to Westminster in April 1899 to make her home with the John Merriam family in the house on Leominster Street that is now the home of Herbert Swedberg.

DONALDSON

GEORGE M. DONALDSON b. December 28, 1845, d. September 10, 1941; m. February 14, 1873, in Taunton, Margaret T. Smith, b. August 15, 1854, d. 1916. Mr. Donaldson was born in Scotland and came to Westminster with his family from Fall River in 1894, settling on Town Farm Road on the place now owned by Dugal Laughton. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson lived in Taunton, and later in Fall River, before coming to Westminster. He was a carpenter and built and worked on many houses in the area before he retired.

Children:

1. George M. b. February 9, 1874, in Taunton; d. 1919; m. June 5, 1901, Helen M. Rivers; lived in Worcester; 1 child

2. James D. b. Aug. 1, 1875, in Fall River; d. 1920; m. September 6, 1899, Florence Eaton (*See Eaton*); lived in Taunton; 2 children.
3. William D. b. March 22, 1877, in Fall River; d. 1924; m. October 26, 1904, Ellen J. Johnson (d. 1956); lived in Greenfield; 2 children; served in Spanish-American War.
4. Joseph b. October 19, 1879, in Fall River; m. June 22, 1904, Reba E. Saunders; lives in North Leominster; 2 children.
5. Robert B. b. January 22, 1882, in Fall River; lives in Fitchburg; unmarried.
6. Paul J. b. April 8, 1887, in Fall River; d. 1890 or 1891.
7. Grace B. b. May 14, 1890, in Fall River; d. August 31, 1923.
8. Ruth M. b. August 12, 1897; m. July 8, 1920, Harry J. Tapply (died July 28, 1942); lives in Fitchburg; 4 children.
9. Alexander b. May 7, 1899; m. November 26, 1925, Marguerite Lawson; lives in Fitchburg; 1 child.

DUBE

JEFFREY J. DUBE b. September 4, 1903, in Cambridge; s. of Joseph and Adeline (Martin) Dube; m. November 26, 1928, Rose E. Vincent, b. March 15, 1912, in Gardner, dau. of Hermidos and Emma (Lafarier) Vincent. They came to Westminster in 1938 and live on Elliott Street, building their own house there in 1946. Mr. Dube worked for L. & Z. Kamman and was a member of the Fire Department until ill health forced him to retire.

Children:

1. Edward J. b. September 1, 1929, in Gardner; in U. S. Army since 1948.
2. James H. b. March 12, 1933, in Gardner; d. November 21, 1956.
3. William G. b. April 10, 1936, in Gardner; employed by Advance Coatings Company.
4. Nancy A. b. March 6, 1940, in Gardner; m. Richard L. Paine; 1 child.
5. Linda M. b. August 12, 1948, in Gardner.

DUNN

PAUL E. DUNN b. January 5, 1904, in Gardner; s. of William H. and Nellie (Barnes) Dunn; m. August 6, 1926, Helen Dawley. (*See Dawley.*) Dr. Dunn is a graduate of Holy Cross College and Boston University Medical School, 1930. He is chief obstetrician at Henry Heywood Memorial Hospital in Gardner and a veteran of WW II. Mrs. Dunn graduated from Worcester Art School, and during WW II was an active worker in the Arts and Skills Division of the Red Cross. They lived with Mrs. Dunn's parents until 1932, when they moved to the Isma Smith house on West Main Street. This they purchased in 1938, remodeling it into their present gracious home.

Children:

1. Paul Winston b. July 20, 1927; veteran of WW II; m. Mary Jones; (*See Jones*); 2 children.
2. Maureen b. January 24, 1933; graduated Emerson College; m. William E. O'Keefe; lives Queens, L. I.; 1 child.
3. Laureen b. January 24, 1933; graduated Endicott Junior College; m. Francis T. O'Leary; lives Sunnyside, L. I.

EATON

The Eaton family in Westminster are descendants of NATHAN, who was married twice and had sixteen children.

NATHANIEL EATON (39) (d. January 31, 1924) was of the third generation of Nathan's family. He m. his cousin, Lucy Ann Eaton (55), and their family live on the homestead on Route 2.

Children:

1. Arthur (69) b. June 4, 1887; unmarried.
2. Lora Ann (70) b. April 22, 1889; unmarried.
3. Ida Adelia (70A) b. June 27, 1897; unmarried.

FRANK EATON (44) (d. January 28, 1910) was of the fourth generation. He m. Martha C. Jackson (d. January 23, 1923). He was a chairmaker, a man of quiet ways, good judgment and irreproachable character.

Children:

1. Laura M. (71) b. October 23, 1873; m. Edward R. Miller (*See Miller.*)
2. Roy M. (72) b. March 18, 1881, d. May 12, 1950; m. Elizabeth Ashlin of Watertown; resided in Watertown; 2 children.

HANDEL EATON (47) Also of the fourth generation; m. Sarah Peabody (d. May 24, 1908, in Taunton).

Children:

1. Florence (73) b. November 16, 1878; m. James D. Donaldson of Taunton; 2 children; now resides in Washington, D. C., with her son, who is a chemist with the F.B.I.
2. Leon H. (74) b. September 21, 1880; m. Clara M. Waterhouse (*See Waterhouse*) October 20, 1910. They resided in Fitchburg for a time and then returned to Westminster in 1925 to occupy the Stedman Morse place on Bacon Street. He was a machinist in Fitchburg, retiring in 1954 after fifty-two years' service with Cowdrey Corporation.

ENGMAN

GEORGE A. ENGMAN Came to Westminster in 1928, settling on the onetime Albert Minott (34) farm on South Ashburnham Road. He and his wife, Saimi, were both born in Finland and lived in Fitchburg before coming to Westminster.

Children:

1. George E. b. July 7, 1918, in Fitchburg; m. Jadwiga Dagelis; veteran of WW II; lives in Saxonville; has 4 children.
2. Walter b. September 15, 1924; m. October 2, 1942, Mae E. Phelps, b. July 25, 1925, in East Braintree, dau. of Earl M. and Florence (Columbe) Phelps. He works for Foster Grant in Leominster.

Children of Walter Engman:

1. Linda M. b. August 28, 1943, in Fitchburg.
2. Ellen L. b. March 1, 1945, in Fitchburg.

3. Lenard E. b. May 31, 1946, in Fitchburg.
4. Paul E. b. January 20, 1950, in Fitchburg.
5. Deborah J. b. March 11, 1951, in Fitchburg.
6. Lauri W. b. September 4, 1952, in Fitchburg.
7. Stephen A. b. October 9, 1954, in Fitchburg.
8. Wayne b. December 19, 1955, in Gardner.

ERICKSON

AUGUST L. ERICKSON b. July 14, 1927, in Gardner; s. of August L. and Marion (Ward) Erickson; m. June 30, 1951, June Thomas, dau. of George and Beatrice (Buckman) Thomas. (*See Thomas.*) He is a veteran of WW II. He came to Westminster in 1951 and works at Advance Coatings Company. They live on Bacon Street.

Children:

1. Shelley M. b. September 21, 1953.
2. Penny J. b. January 9, 1957.

ERICKSON

RICHARD O. ERICKSON b. May 12, 1932, in Fitchburg; s. of Oscar and Freda (Leucht) Erickson; m. January 5, 1952, Grace L. Chalmers. (*See Chalmers.*) He has served with the ATI-NAS, Brunswick, Maine, since 1952. They built their house on North Common Road in 1955.

Children:

1. Kathy L. b. August 11, 1953.
2. Richard C. b. May 25, 1956.
3. Robert A. b. September 21, 1958.

ESTABROOK

EDWARD C. ESTABROOK (40) b. January 9, 1840, d. November 16, 1920; s. of Cyrus M. and Bethia (Colman) Estabrook. He and his wife, Mary (Corey), spent their years in Westminster in the Lake District. (She died March 11, 1936.)

Children:

1. Arthur C. (49) b. May 9, 1876; m. Ruth Derby; 1 child; operated a guest house in Florida; retired and now resides with his daughter in Ashby.
2. Alvin E. (52) b. August 29, 1885; moved to Reading; m. Evelyn A. MacLean of Wakefield; 1 child; engineer.
3. Nellie L. (53) b. December 4, 1887, d. October 25, 1949; unmarried; teacher; taught many years in Brockton.
4. Carrie I. (54) b. December 28, 1890; unmarried, teacher in Westminster; retired in 1958; moved into center of town after the death of her mother.

FENNO

FRANKLIN B. FENNO (19) (b. June 20, 1833, d. Aug. 27, 1875) and his wife Mahala G. Estabrook (b. Dec. 26, 1833, d. February 25, 1910) were both members of families who have lived long in the community.

Children:

1. Helen L. (21) b. November 1, 1855; m. George W. Bruce. (*See Bruce*).
2. Frank W. (23) b. October 24, 1861, d. June 4, 1942; m. October 24, 1893, Mary Alice Nichols (48) (d. March 26, 1911) (*See Nichols*). In 1887 Mr. Fenno became cashier of the Westminster National Bank; at that time he was the youngest cashier of any National Bank in Massachusetts. This bank was moved to Gardner in 1894. In 1916 it became the Gardner Trust Company; he became its Treasurer then and in 1919 its President, an office which he held until 1923, when he was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors. This office he held at the time of his death. He served Westminster as Town Treasurer continuously from 1888 until 1939. He was always actively interested in all town affairs, and was regarded as one of Westminster's most capable and influential citizens. He and his family have occupied the former Penniman's Tavern in the center of town since 1900.

(*Children forward*)

3. Edgar E. (25) b. September 19, 1867, d. December 3, 1941; m. November 21, 1890, Ida E. Fisher (d. April 18, 1938). He was associated with George W. Bruce in the old Cheney store on Main Street and later became its owner. He operated an old-fashioned country store in the building now known as Johnny's Super Market. He was a man of quiet ways but of unquestioned worth and honor, richly deserving the esteem of the townspeople. There were no children.

Children of Frank W. Fenno:

1. Doris Martha b. September 20, 1894; a teacher in Westminster, retired 1950. Trustee of Westminster Public Library. Unmarried.
2. Thaddeus Bruce b. September 9, 1896, d. October 21, 1937; m. June 5, 1926, Mabel L. Ray. (*See Ray.*) They occupied the house of her father Hiram Ray on Academy Street. Thaddeus Fenno attended Mt. Hermon School. It has been said of him that the spirit of his life was "I serve." During his all too short lifetime he rendered thoughtful and efficient service to the residents of Westminster. He was a member of the School Board and was Postmaster at the time of his death. Few men in Westminster have ever been more respected, more trusted and more beloved than he. Mrs. Fenno has served on the Board of Public Welfare, and for some years was Librarian of the Westminster Public Library, retiring in 1959.

(*Children forward*)

3. Alice Mahala b. March 15, 1899; unmarried; graduate of Simmons College; now Director of dining service at the Harvard School of Business Administration.
4. Barbara May b. May 13, 1900; graduate of Sargent School; m. June 30, 1925, Irving F. Sherwood of Plymouth, New Hampshire; resides in Lexington. Two children: Joan, b. September 4, 1929, and Irving, Jr., b. March 19, 1932.
5. Frank Wesley, Jr., b. September 11, 1902; m. Avis Ann Cochran of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, May 9,

1929. He graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1925. (See Chapter 13.)

(*Children forward*)

6. Charles Nichols b. July 31, 1904; sailor and marine for four years; m. June 7, 1924, Margaret Gallowich of Colorado; moved to Chicago; no children.
7. — b. and d. June 9, 1910.

Children of Thaddeus Bruce Fenno:

1. Ray N. b. December 12, 1927; m. Dale Short of Brooklyn, New York; served two years in the Marine Corps; graduated Worcester Polytechnic Institute; civil engineer.
2. Mary E. b. January 15, 1929; graduated Simmons College; m. Paul R. deConnancour of Fall River; resides in Forth Worth, Texas; 1 child.

Children of Frank Wesley Fenno, Jr:

1. Charles Cochran b. December 28, 1930, in Manila, P. I.; m. Nancy A. Thomas; graduate of University of Maine; 2 children; lives in Gardner.
2. Frank Wesley III b. March 1, 1932, in Annapolis, Maryland; m. Joan Whyte; graduate of University of Maine; 3 children; lives in Los Angeles, California.
3. Ted Perley b. August 4, 1938, in New London, Connecticut; a midshipman at Annapolis Naval Academy.

FITZGERALD

RICHARD R. FITZGERALD b. June 26, 1928, in Gardner; s. of John W. and Mary E. (Shea) Fitzgerald; m. July 10, 1950, Lucille C. Grenier, dau. of Albert and Eva (Sideleau) Grenier. (See Grenier.) He is a veteran of the Korean War; a graduate of Fitchburg Teachers College, and is Supervising Principal in the Holden Elementary School System. Mrs. Fitzgerald is a registered nurse. He came to Westminster in 1953 and built his house on Gardner State Road in 1955. He became a member of the School Committee in 1959.

Children:

1. Colleen A. b. May 8, 1952.
2. Kerry Beth b. September 5, 1956.
3. Jo Ellen b. November 6, 1958.

FLINKSTROM

HENRY A. FLINKSTROM b. February 19, 1933, in Ashby; s. of William and Selma (Aho) Flinkstrom; m. May 14, 1950, Marian J. Linnus, b. June 1, 1932, in Fitchburg, dau. of Wilho A. and Vieno (Koski) Linnus. They live on Ashburnham State Road, where they built their house in 1953.

Children:

1. Leonard A. b. January 15, 1951.
2. Eric A. b. July 29, 1954.
3. Carl E. b. November 17, 1957.

FORBUSH

JOSEPH W. FORBUSH (2) b. November 24, 1815, d. February 14, 1899; s. of David and Dolly Forbush. He was a cousin of: CHARLES A. FORBUSH (11) b. February 25, 1830, d. November 14, 1899; s. of Manasseh S. and Dorcas (Whitman) Forbush, unmarried; succeeded to the estate of his parents at junction of North Common and So. Ashburnham Road. In 1894 he began a four-year tour of the world and returned to Westminster in 1899. He was the last of his family. He had gained much of his education from books. This love for books, together with his deep interest in Westminster, led to a generous bequest for the erection of a Public Library Building in memory of his late cousin, Joseph W. Forbush. Today the Forbush Memorial Building honors both Charles A. Forbush and his cousin Joseph, in the minds of the citizens of Westminster.

FOSTER

JUDSON FOSTER (11) b. May 19, 1858, d. December 18, 1939; s. of Josiah and Julia A. (Seaver) Foster; m. December 31, 1881, Kate M. Urban (b. September 22, 1861, in Hamburg, Germany, d. March 17, 1945) dau. of Martin and Katherine Urban. They moved from his father's farm in South Westminster to occupy the present Foster dwelling on Academy Hill, which is now the home of his daughter, Mrs. John A. Sargent. Here he continued to farm as long as he was able. He served the town as selectman, assessor, and also filled other posts of public service.

Children:

1. Adolph Urban (15) b. June 4, 1884, d. 1889.
2. Judson Roscoe (16) b. May 19, 1886, d. May 29, 1955; m. April 20, 1912, E. Marguerite Urban, b. July 3, 1890, in Brooklyn, New York, dau. of Louis J. and Bessie M. (Fletcher) Urban. They resided in New York, where Mr. Foster held a position as accountant with a New York banking firm, until 1932. In that year he purchased the Augustus Eager place on the Common, near his father's home. He became Treasurer of the Gardner Trust Company. In 1939 he was elected to two responsible town offices, those of Town Treasurer and of Selectman, both of which he held many years.

(Child forward)

3. Katherine Julianne b. June 24, 1897; m. John Albert Sargent. (*See Sargent.*)

Child of Judson R. Foster:

Katherine Elizabeth b. June 24, 1916; graduate of Framingham Teachers' College; m. June 21, 1947, Rudolph F. Hebert; lives in Maynard.

FRANCIS

THOMAS A. FRANCIS, JR., b. May 24, 1915, in Fitchburg; s. of Thomas and Sarah (Coulter) Francis; m. July 26, 1941, Ellie M.

Teittinen, b. November 15, 1916, in South Ashburnham, dau. of John and Josephine (Jaakkola) Teittinen. A veteran of WW II. They came to Westminster in 1948 and live on South Shore Road. He works for Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg. Mr. and Mrs. Francis are interested workers in all activities for the betterment of the town.

Children:

1. Michael T. b. November 9, 1947, in Gardner.
2. Nancy L. b. March 5, 1950, in Gardner.

FRENCH

LUCIUS W. FRENCH b. February 21, 1874, in Stafford Springs, Connecticut; d. May 18, 1948; s. of George and Mary (Quimby) French; m. (1) September 1, 1895, in Berlin, Amanda A. Monke (d. 1905). He came to Westminster in 1908. He was a blacksmith and had a shop beside the Cracker Bakery. Later he drove a team for the owners of the Bakery, delivering crackers over central Massachusetts. He served the town on the Board of Selectmen, the School Board, and the Welfare Board. He m. (2) March 30, 1909, Margaret E. Hall, b. November 8, 1878, in Jefferson, Maine, dau. of Alton and Rebecca (Tobey) Hall. Mrs. French still lives in their home on South Street, in the house formerly owned by Myron Sawin.

Children:

1. Cora b. January 21, 1897, in Gardner; m. Guy Miller; 4 children; lives in Gardner.
2. Thayer H. b. February 23, 1910; m. May 21, 1932, Harriet Herr, b. October 14, 1910, in Winchendon, dau. of Paul and Harriet (Sharron) Herr. A graduate of Colby College, he works for General Electric Company in Fitchburg. Mrs. French is a registered nurse. They built their house on South Street in 1938.

(Child forward)

3. Lucile R. b. November 21, 1912; graduate of Simmons College; m. E. Craig Miller; lives in Saco, Maine; 3 children.

Child of Thayer H. French:

Thayer A. b. December 16, 1936; graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

FRENCH

MARSHALL R. FRENCH b. January 15, 1909, in Gardner; s. of Byron R. and Sadie G. (Cummings) French; m. April 19, 1943 (1) Mabel Taylor of Ashburnham (died); m. (2) December 30, 1944, Joyce Riddell, b. April 1, 1922, in Meridian, Mississippi, dau. of James A. and Sallie E. (Roberts) Riddell. He came to Westminster with his family as a boy. A veteran of WW II, he holds rank of major in the Signal Corps Active Reserve Unit. Mrs. French has served on the School Committee. They lived for some years at the corner of Bacon and Elliott Streets before building their present home on Academy Hill.

Child:

Sally Ann b. August 12, 1947, in Fitchburg.

FRIBERG

JOHN A. FRIBERG b. April 1, 1876, in Finland, d. January 29, 1953; s. of John H. and Anna (Salo) Friberg; m. May 18, 1899, Wilhelmiina Lappaniemi, b. May 27, 1877, in Finland, dau. of Herman and Adolfina (Maki) Lappaniemi. They came to this country in 1906, living in Worcester before coming to Westminster July 1, 1909. They built their house on North Common Road in 1935, where Mrs. Friberg still lives. Mr. Friberg was well-known as an excellent stonemason.

Children:

1. Laura S. b. November 19, 1899, in Finland; m. William A. Klein, lives in New Rochelle, New York; 2 children.
2. Eino H. b. May 10, 1901, in Finland; m. 3 times.
3. Ellen E. b. June 5, 1903, in Finland; m. David A. Whyte; both deceased.

4. Katherine J. b. August 29, 1905, in Finland; lives in New Rochelle, New York.
5. Alma M. b. September 16, 1907, in Worcester, d. October 1937; m. Joseph Fahey. No children.
6. Paul A. b. October 19, 1908, in Worcester; Veteran of WW II.
7. Frank F. b. January 11, 1912; m. Aurelia Pheasant; WW II Veteran; works in State Department. Now in Helsinki, Finland; 3 children.
8. Viljo W. b. February 1, 1915; m. Evangeline Leger; lives in Gardner; 3 children.
9. Wayne V. b. January 20, 1917; m. Adele Allport; killed in action WW II.
10. Arthur A. b. July 1, 1920; m. June 25, 1948, Katherine J. Savola, b. July 30, 1927, in Fitchburg, dau. of Uno and Henna (Kola) Savola. Mr. Friberg is a veteran of WW II and is employed by Crocker-Burbank. They live on South Ashburnham Road.

(Children forward)

11. Alice W. b. August 25, 1922, d. November 8, 1923.
12. Edith A. b. November 2, 1925; m. Nicholas Rudziak; he is Lt. Col. in Regular Army; Military Attaché; 4 children.

Children of Arthur A. Friberg:

1. Lynn A. b. July 30, 1949.
2. Jon M. b. June 28, 1952.

GAGE

FRANKLIN M. GAGE (d. August 7, 1938) came to Westminster with his family in 1932 and operated a blacksmith shop and garage on the corner of Route 2A and Depot Road. He and his family are all musical and have added much to the entertainments in the town, as well as to the religious services. Mr. Gage sang in the choir of the Baptist church; his daughter, Mrs. Grimes was choir

director in the Congregational church for a number of years, and other members of the family have sung in the different choirs. Mrs. Gage still lives in an apartment on the State Road with her daughter Mrs. Grimes.

Children: (All b. before family moved to Westminster):

1. Walter b. October 8, 1907; m. Evelyn Johnson; lives in Leominster; 3 children.
2. Florence b. February 16, 1909; m. Raymond Grimes; divorced.
3. Laura b. July 2, 1911; m. Paul DeBarge; 1 child.
4. Virginia b. July 23, 1912; m. (1) Albert Gauthier, 1 son; m. (2) James Page. (*See Page.*)
5. Rachel b. August 31, 1914; m. Arne Lahtinen. (*See Lahtinen.*)
6. Norman b. March 27, 1916; m. Marion Welch; lives in Gardner; 5 children.
7. Lester b. June 26, 1917; m. Maxine Nye; veteran of WW II; lives in Pepperell; 2 children.
8. Eva b. October 9, 1919; m. Francis Coombs. (*See Coombs.*)
9. Franklin b. March 20, 1921; veteran of WW II; m. M. Charlotte Beardsley; lives in Fitchburg; 5 children.
10. Dorothy b. July 28, 1922; m. William Hickey. (*See Hickey.*)
11. William b. July 20, 1923; m. April 15, 1950 Stella C. Jacques, b. March 17, 1923, dau. of Eugene and Claudia (Simard) Jacques. They came to Westminster in 1951 and bought a place on South Street. Mr. Gage is a veteran of WW II.

(Children forward)

12. Herbert b. October 15, 1924; m. Beverly Clifford; lives in Leominster; 3 children; veteran of WW II.

Children of William Gage:

1. Sandra J. b. August 15, 1951, in Fitchburg.
2. June E. b. January 9, 1953, in Fitchburg.
3. Stephen W. b. November 17, 1955, in Fitchburg.
4. Daniel W. b. March 22, 1957, in Fitchburg.

GALE

ELLSWORTH W. GALE b. December 31, 1904, in Hubbardston; s. of William and Mabel (Thompson) Gale; m. August 4, 1931, Ethel I. Trask, b. August 8, 1909, in Providence, R. I., dau. of Fred and Edith (Morrill) Trask. They came to Westminster in 1946 and bought the house on Bacon Street formerly owned by Mrs. Myra Whitney, where they make their home. Mr. Gale is employed in Fitchburg at the plant of Independent Lock Company. Mrs. Gale is a registered nurse.

Child:

Diana b. June 1, 1944.

GALLANT

ALVIN A. GALLANT b. March 28, 1916, in Fitchburg; s. of Anthony and Alice (Finnegan) Gallant; m. May 14, 1940, M. Pearl Baker, dau. of Chester and Delia (Jolly) Baker. (*See Baker.*) He is a veteran of WW II. They live on the State Road.

Children:

1. Muriel A. b. December 26, 1941.
2. Phyllis b. June 6, 1945.
3. Michael b. June 12, 1949.

GARDNER

JOHN A. GARDNER b. February 13, 1895, d. May 16, 1957; s. of John A. and Wilhelmina H. (Zepp) Gardner of Bridgeport, Connecticut; m. January 9, 1925, Marion Lyons, b. February 17, 1898, in Brooklyn, New York, dau. of Thomas F. and Emmeline (Crankshaw) Lyons. They came to Westminster in 1949 and bought the second house on Ripley Road built by the late Nelson S. Greely. John Gardner was a veteran of WW II and a member of the Board of Water Commissioners.

Child:

Jean b. November 21, 1925, in Newton; m. Robert Mayo; lives in Millis.

GASTONGUAY

PAUL EMILE GASTONGUAY b. March 5, 1916, in Chisholm, Maine; s. of Edward and Regina (Keith) Gastonguay; m. November 10, 1941, Eugenia K. Marsh, b. November 12, 1919, in Gardner, dau. of Neil and Marion (Viall) Marsh. He came to Westminster with his family in 1950 and lives on Route 2A, near the junction of Depot Road, in a house formerly owned by Mrs. Graustein. He is employed as an inspector at the Raytheon Plant in Bedford.

Children:

1. Paul E., Jr. b. September 3, 1942, in Fitchburg.
2. Kathleen b. September 19, 1943, in Fitchburg.
3. Richard b. August 16, 1944, in Fitchburg.
4. Pamela b. September 12, 1948, in Fitchburg.
5. Neil b. December 26, 1949, in Fitchburg.
6. Robert b. November 24, 1950, d. February 15, 1952.
7. Marion b. June 4, 1954, in Fitchburg.
8. Peter b. July 15, 1955, in Fitchburg.
9. Stephen b. December 16, 1956, in Fitchburg.

GATES

The Gates family has long been associated with the Beech Hill section of Westminster, now owned by the Gardner State Hospital. Several generations of the family had lived on the Hill before Eugene Gates (25) made his home there.

EUGENE GATES b. January 2, 1839, d. July 31, 1908; s. of Leonard (20) and Martha (Leland) Gates; m. September 2, 1862 Helen (29), dau. of Anson and Emily (Jackson) Ray. (See Ray.) Mrs. Gates died October 4, 1932.

Children:

1. Luella F. (30) b. September 18, 1864; m. George A. Sargent. (See Sargent.)

2. Albert E. (31) b. January 9, 1871, d. June 15, 1950; m. Jannette Forsyth, b. June 16, 1892, dau. of George and Ellen (McLaine) Forsyth. He first lived with his parents and farmed their land. Later he lived on two different farms on what is now part of Gardner State Hospital, finally locating at his home on Main Street now owned by Adams and Halliday. For many years he served the town as a member of the Board of Assessors. For a number of years he was a rural mail carrier. His wife d. October 21, 1939.

Children of Albert E. Gates:

1. Esther Helen b. August 10, 1893; m. Arthur Charles Hicks of Westminster. (See Hicks.)
2. Blanche Isabelle b. May 10, 1896; m. Earle F. Daily of California; resides in Arizona.
3. Willard Albert b. January 17, 1908; m. October 21, 1950 Blanche Rena Parker of Rochdale. He is a veteran of WW II. They live in Holden.

GILES

CHARLES F. GILES (5) b. September 7, 1860, d. December 8, 1945; s. of Charles G. and Lucy E. (Estey) Giles; m. November 29, 1911 Lucy A. Milton (March 3, 1867–August 22, 1950) dau. of Andrew and Sarah (Emerson) Milton. Charles Giles came to Westminster when he was one year old, and from that time on lived in one of the Estey houses on Main Street. Graduating from the Westminster Academy, he joined his uncle, Aldin Adams, in the wheelwright business, which they carried on at a mill off the present Eaton Street. Here also they had a grist mill, a cider mill, and a feed business. In 1894, Mr. Giles was appointed Town Clerk pro tem, and thereafter was elected to that office for the next thirty-six years. (No other Town Clerk had held office so long.) His religion was that of his family: Universalist. He served as Parish Clerk for over fifty years. He was actively interested in many town organizations, including the Westminster Historical

Society. Mrs. Giles was born off Adelaide, Australia, on her father's bark, and had an unusual childhood, traveling with her parents on the China coast, in the West Indies, and to Constantinople, where her father's vessel was the first American ship to go through the Bosphorus. She graduated from Tufts College in 1898. She was called to the Universalist Church in Chester, Vermont, and left that place to go to Westfield. In 1902 she came to the Universalist Church in Gardner, and in 1904 took over the Westminster parish. In 1916—after eighteen years of active parish work in which she had missed but one Sunday, because of illness—she resigned; but she continued to supply churches of all denominations until 1928. In all her years in Westminster she was active in whatever seemed to her to promote the well-being and happiness of the citizens. Like her husband, she was a loyal worker in both Grange and the Westminster Historical Society. From 1916 until 1942 she served on the Board of Trustees of the Public Library. For twenty-five years she was the Extension Service Director of Westminster.

GILSON

EDGAR L. GILSON (3) b. November 4, 1851, d. March 20, 1904, and his wife Harriet Josie Holden (d. March 14, 1930), returned from Sherborn to Westminster. He helped build the electric street railway and in 1898 was one of the first motormen on the road.

(Child forward)

WARREN E. GILSON (4) d. March 15, 1926; brother of the above, and his wife Hattie L. Clark (d. February 1, 1931) lived quietly all their lives in their home on Bacon Street. He was a carpenter by occupation.

WILLIAM E. GILSON (5) another brother, and his wife Jennie E. (Holden) resided for a while in Westminster and then moved to Leominster. He died in the South, where he was spending a winter. His wife died in Leominster. Their daughter, Ida Estelle, had died when young.

Child of Edgar L. Gilson:

1. Louis B. Gilson b. April 25, 1878, d. September 2, 1952;
m. June 14, 1899, Gertrude Ellen Pratt; (b. in Framing-

ham), July 10, 1875, d. July 3, 1959; dau. of William Henry and Sarah E. (Haven) Pratt of Northboro. They resided in several towns, including Fitchburg, and returned to Westminster in 1922. They occupied the Bradley Holden place on Bacon St., now home of their daughter Doris. Mr. Gilson was a stationary engineer in Fitchburg. He served in WW I.

Children of Louis B. Gilson:

1. Alberta Mabel b. February 4, 1900, in Northboro; m. Robert Denton. (*See Denton.*)
2. ——— b. and d. July 17, 1902, in Marlboro.
3. Arlene Edna b. March 11, 1904, in Marlboro; m. Paul N. Woodward. (*See Woodward.*)
4. Edgar Bradley b. March 12, 1905, in Westminster, d. September 1, 1908, in Fitchburg.
5. Doris Eleanor b. November 26, 1906; unmarried; office worker.
6. Ralph b. February 28, 1909, d. March 14, 1910, in Fitchburg.

GOODRIDGE

FRED A. GOODRIDGE (7) m. October 24, 1905, (1) Lulu Marion Battles, dau. of Alton and Emma (Cummings) Battles. By himself or with associates he has operated the sawmill and box-making business now at the foot of Bacon Street, and he has prospered in that business. For fifteen years he was engineer of the Fire Department; he has served on the Board of Selectmen. After he and his wife were divorced he married (2) Mrs. Hazel M. (Cooley) Bevis of Dana. They occupy the village dwelling of his father, adjoining the sawmill.

Children:

1. Wilfred Howard b. December 2, 1906; m. September 15, 1928, Kathryn Agnes McAuliffe of Fitchburg. He has been road commissioner since 1933, and Superintendent of the Water Department ever since the system was

installed in 1955. He is a faithful member of the Fire Department.

(Children forward)

2. John Clifton b. July 8, 1918, d. December 26, 1941; m. September 24, 1939 Francella Blossom May of Gardner, a granddaughter of Lucinthia Eaton (64) of Westminster. They built a new house on Elliott Street. He died suddenly and his widow occupied their home until she m. William H. Kohnke of Arizona on September 12, 1942 and left town. No children.

Children of Wilfred H. Goodridge:

1. Barbara Ann b. December 27, 1931; m. December 27, 1952 Robert Lidberg; lives in Fitchburg; 2 children.
2. Philip b. September 1, 1941, d. September 10, 1941.

GRAHN

DONALD GRAHN b. December 11, 1912, in Gardner; s. of Emil and Mary (Nissula) Grahn; m. August 8, 1937, Margarete H. Himes, b. March 16, 1914 in Bessemer, Alabama, dau. of Thomas A. and Ruby A. (Griffin) Himes, Jr. He is a veteran of WW II. He came to Westminster in 1931. In 1940 they built a house on Nichols Street and started their florist business, which has become prosperous in the ensuing years.

GRAY

DONALD GRAY and his wife, Nellie (Elesevicz), came to Westminster in 1947. They live on Ellis Road. He is a veteran of WW II.

Children:

1. Linda b. May 6, 1948.
2. Donald, Jr. b. May 31, 1950.
3. Sandra b. June 14, 1955.
4. Gary b. June 18, 1957.

GREELY

ROBERT H. GREELY (b. in England January 25, 1851, d. Spokane, Washington July 7, 1901) m. Hattie S. Sprague. (See Sprague.)

Child:

Nelson Sprague Greely b. at Spokane, Washington, December 24, 1892. He was brought up from very early childhood in Westminster by his great-aunt, Sarah Jane Wyman, first in the Narrows, then in the center of town. He attended Westminster schools and Cushing Academy; then Wentworth Institute, where he also taught for years. He was a heating and plumbing contractor in Boston until retiring in 1939. He was a thirty-second degree Mason, an active member for life of all Masonic orders, the Lions Club and the Appalachian Mountain Club. On March 1, 1939 he married Ruth E. Fletcher of Belmont, Mass., dau. of Jennie L. Ripley and James H. Fletcher, b. February 12, 1892, at Crugers-on-Hudson, N. Y. He bought the "Muster Field" in Westminster in 1939 and built two houses there on Ripley Road in 1939 and 1940. He built his home on Miles Hill in 1943. He was a Town Assessor from 1944 through 1946. He lived at Miles Hill until his death March 20, 1954. No children.

GREEN

GEORGE GREEN b. June 1, 1917, in Fitchburg; s. of Fred and Florence (Bolt) Green; m. July 4, 1946, Lillian Niemi, b. February 27, 1926, dau. of Kasper and Hilma (Koski) Niemi. They live on Route 140. He is a veteran of WW II and works for the Highway Department.

Children:

1. Gary b. December 6, 1948.
2. Donald b. January 21, 1953.

GREENE

ABNER FRANK GREENE (b. January 11, 1839, d. October 2, 1919) and his wife Mary M. (Hill; b. February 9, 1843, d. May 27, 1919) spent their last years in the house next to the First Congregational Church. Their daughter Sarah lived with them and cared for them.

Child:

Sarah F. b. October 15, 1878, d. September 20, 1939; unmarried. For more than 35 years she served the community as Librarian of the Westminster Public Library, and as custodian of the property of the Westminster Historical Society. Whatever help any school child or adult asked at the Library, Miss Greene gave if it were humanly possible. The town can be grateful to her for building up the Westminster Library so that today it is considered one of the best in the state for a community of this size.

GRENIER

ALBERT J. GRENIER b. January 23, 1897, in Fitchburg; s. of Charles and Maria (Couture) Grenier; m. August 23, 1920, Eva M. Sideleau, b. November 20, 1899, in Fitchburg, dau. of Augustus and Albina (LaFortune) Sideleau. They came to Westminster in 1930 and from 1940-1945 were building the house that is their present home on the Gardner State Road, near Shady Avenue entrance. He is a carpenter, having built several houses near his own. He has served on the Board of Registrars for many years.

Children:

1. Lucille C. b. May 21, 1924; a registered nurse; m. Richard Fitzgerald. (*See Fitzgerald.*)
2. Leo C. b. November 29, 1927, in Fitchburg; m. Annette R. Roy, b. May 17, 1930, dau. of Edgar and Alfreda (Desbois) Roy of Templeton. He is a veteran of the Korean War. They live on the Gardner State Road.

(Children forward)

3. Clarence A. b. October 14, 1933; m. Theresa Croteau.
No children.

Children of Leo C. Grenier:

1. William b. April 18, 1952, in Anchorage, Alaska.
2. Shelley b. March 31, 1953, in Gardner.
3. Sandra b. February 28, 1956, in Gardner.
4. Joseph b. October 27, 1957, in Gardner.

GRONROOS

JOHN GRONROOS b. July 25, 1921, in Princeton; s. of Tobias and Amanda (Manneliin) Gronroos; m. March 23, 1943, Irja Rinta, b. March 8, 1921, in Fitchburg, dau. of John and Susanna (Poola) Rinta. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on East Road.

Child:

John T. b. January 27, 1947.

HAGER

JOSEPH HAGER (15) (b. March 22, 1823, d. February 13, 1915) lived on Pleasant Street in the present Raymond Scofield home. He made many bequests to the town, among them Hager Park and the Revolutionary Monument in Woodside Cemetery. His wife Arabella (Sargent) died October 2, 1901.

Children:

1. Laura Ellen (19) b. July 16, 1862, d. May 11, 1880.
2. Mary Belle (20) b. July 11, 1868, d. August 17, 1911.
She was one of the early librarians of the Westminster Public Library; m. March 3, 1904, Albion B. Allen of Amherst, and lived in Amherst.

HAKKINEN

WAINO E. HAKKINEN b. May 1, 1920, in Gardner; s. of Nuutti and Mandi (Manninen) Hakkinen; m. March 6, 1945, Viola N.

Nikunen. (*See* Nikunen.) He is a veteran of WW II. They built their own house on Leominster Street in 1947. He is a draftsman for General Electric Company.

Children:

1. Donald W. b. March 31, 1946.
2. Linda A. b. January 5, 1949.
3. Lois K. b. April 1, 1954.

HALLIDAY

FRANK E. HALLIDAY b. March 8, 1917, in Worcester; s. of Harry O. and Fannie (Law) Halliday; m. February 3, 1950, Constance A. Adams, b. December 7, 1926, in Worcester, dau. of Frank M. and Hazel H. (George) Adams. He is a veteran of WW II. They came to Westminster in 1954, and lived on Church Street until 1958, when Mrs. Halliday's parents joined them and they bought the house on upper Main Street formerly owned by Albert Gates.

Children:

1. Martha L. b. March 23, 1951, in Worcester.
2. Jo Anne b. March 23, 1952, in Worcester.
3. Peter M. b. January 7, 1955, in Worcester.
4. Timothy S. b. April 27, 1956.

HALPIN

ELLIOTT D. HALPIN b. April 12, 1914, in Providence, Rhode Island; s. of Thomas G. and Mae E. (Hagberg) Halpin; m. April 28, 1938, Helen V. Cease, b. February 28, 1913, in West Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, dau. of Harry and Eva (Kinney) Cease. Mr. Halpin attended Rhode Island State College. He came to Westminster with his family in 1940 and built his present home on Nichols Street in 1951. He owns and operates Elliott's Jewelry Store in Fitchburg; he is a member of the Board of Assessors.

Child:

- Marsha D. b. December 9, 1939, in Providence, Rhode Island; a graduate of Colby Junior College.

HAM

ANDREW HAM (21) b. January 15, 1870, in Jackson, New Hampshire, d. October 31, 1934; s. of George (1) and Amanda (Hayes) Ham; m. June 28, 1889, Sarah Ellen Cook (d. December 30, 1958), dau. of Welsley W. and Charlotte T. (Wargent) Cook. He was a chairmaker and later worked in Fitchburg for Crocker-Burbank. He lived for many years at the junction of Overlook and North Common Roads, the present Honkala place, and after the death of his father moved to a house on Leominster Street, now the home of his daughter, Mrs. Daniel Havener.

Children:

1. Elizabeth Lavina b. January 27, 1890, d. January 31, 1953; m. Louis Walter Fisher; lived in Westminster and South Gardner; 1 daughter.
2. Charlotte Amanda b. March 7, 1892; m. (1) Willis Burnett, 1 son, divorced; m. (2) Ralph Clark, lives in New Durham, New Hampshire.
3. Hazel Amelia b. April 25, 1898; m. Daniel W. Havener. (See Havener.)
4. Beatrice Helena b. July 8, 1900; m. Kenneth R. Durling; lives in Fitchburg; 6 children.

HANDLIN

MATTHEW E. HANDLIN b. April 10, 1896, in Fitchburg, d. January 6, 1952; s. of Matthew and Elizabeth (Noonan) Handlin; m. June 10, 1920, Ruth H. Burns, b. April 8, 1900, dau. of Daniel and Delia (Brunell) Burns. Both Mr. and Mrs. Handlin have been employed by the Boston and Maine Railroad. He was a veteran of WW II and a member of the Finance Committee. Their home is on Upper Main Street.

Child:

- Beverly A. b. September 2, 1926; graduate of Lasell Junior College; m. John H. Lothrop. (See Lothrop.)

HARRINGTON

JAMES S. HARRINGTON (29) b. July 20, 1845, d. April 18, 1921; s. of Daniel and Nancy (White) Harrington; descended from a long line of successful farmers. He m. March 12, 1867, Elizabeth Prentiss (d. January 15, 1935), of Hubbardston. He was a carpenter and road builder. He lived at the corner of Pleasant Street and Route 2, which is now the home of his granddaughter Mrs. Marion Noble.

Children:

1. Ernest E. (42) b. February 13, 1870, d. November 21, 1953; m. June 22, 1898 Ethel M. Carter, d. November 23, 1941, dau. of William H. and Ellen (Dike) Carter. They occupied a part of the home of his wife's parents, the George Miles place on Carter Road. He succeeded to the care of the farm during Mr. Carter's last years and at the same time worked in a Fitchburg paper mill.

(Children forward)

2. Nettie E. (43) b. June 10, 1872; m. John C. Roper. (See Roper.)
3. Edith L. (44) b. May 16, 1874, d. June 9, 1954; unmarried. For many years she was the assistant librarian at the Westminster Public Library and after the death of Miss Greene was the librarian.

Children of Ernest E. Harrington:

1. Ellen Elizabeth b. April 30, 1899; m. William J. Mason of Boston. (See Mason.)
2. Miles Clayton b. July 26, 1900; m. Alzetta Stokes of Meredith, New Hampshire; lives in Clinton, 5 children.
3. Donald James b. September 16, 1903, d. September 6, 1909.
4. Dorothy May b. October 17, 1911; m. Orin M. Wheeler of Hubbardston; resided in Westminster, Hubbardston and Winchendon; 2 children.

HARTWELL

CHARLES F. HARTWELL b. December 26, 1892; s. of Frank and Mary (Enson) Hartwell; m. July 12, 1924, Ruth Williams, b. December 19, 1893, in Gardner, dau. of John and Arvilla (Brown) Williams. They came to Westminster in 1948 and bought the house on the corner of South Street and Dawley Road, formerly owned by Mrs. Bertha Stowe. He is a veteran of WW I; has served on the Board of Assessors.

Children:

1. John N. b. July 19, 1925, in Gardner; m. Barbara Kendrick; lives in Simsbury, Connecticut; 3 children.
2. Joanne M. b. August 26, 1927, in Gardner; m. Charles V. Ball; lives in Amherst; 3 children.

HAVENER

DANIEL HAVENER b. July 12, 1896, in Petersham, d. January 27, 1949; s. of Robert and Mary (McFarland) Havener; m. February 14, 1920, Hazel Ham (*See Ham*). They lived in Gardner until 1934, when they came to Westminster to live with her widowed mother. He was a veteran of WW I, and was employed for many years by S. Bent Brothers in Gardner.

Child:

1. Robert A. b. March 19, 1923; m. September 6, 1947, Vivian A. Cross, b. July 7, 1927, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, dau. of Frank and Vivian (Brown) Cross. He is a veteran of WW II and works for S. Bent Brothers of Gardner. The Haveners own their house on Bacon Street, built in 1953. He is a beekeeper.

Children:

1. Glenn A. b. July 8, 1949.
2. Vivian A. b. October 17, 1950.

HAYDEN

KATHERINE P. HAYDEN b. May 1, 1888, in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, came to this country in 1902, and to Westminster in 1912, a widow. She was employed at the Gardner State Hospital for fifteen years and during WW II was in charge of Highland Cottage, caring for forty patients without help. She has two daughters, both living in Gardner.

HAYNES

EINO A. HAYNES b. June 20, 1911, in Gardner; s. of John and Josephine (Adamson) Heikkila; m. June 29, 1934, A. Sylvia Johnson, b. February 24, 1913, in Gardner, dau. of William and Lydia Johnson. They came to Westminster in 1937, building their present house on Gardner State Road in 1943. Mr. Haynes is employed by Kuniholm Manufacturing Company, of Gardner.

Children:

1. William J. b. November 29, 1935, d. November 15, 1939.
2. Nancy S. b. August 11, 1942.
3. Sallyann b. April 7, 1945.

HAYWARD

LEWIS N. HAYWARD b. January 3, 1924, in Randolph; s. of Norman and Marie (White) Hayward; m. April 3, 1948, Frances M. Page, dau. of Carl and Priscilla (Surrey) Page. (See Page.) He is a veteran of WW II. They live with her parents on Davis Road.

Children:

1. Jeanne L. b. July 4, 1949.
2. Deborah A. b. February 20, 1953.
3. Rebecca L. b. January 14, 1955.

HEBERT

HOWARD G. HEBERT b. January 26, 1926, in Gardner; m. February 4, 1949, Georgette LaForce, b. August 24, 1924, in Gardner. He is a veteran of WW II. They own their home on Ellis Road. He works for Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

Children:

1. George H. b. October 31, 1949.
2. Elizabeth A. b. November 11, 1950.
3. Kathleen A. b. June 14, 1952.

HECKER

IRVING W. HECKER b. April 25, 1931, in Fitchburg; s. of Paul and Elsie (Leupold) Hecker; m. August 14, 1954, Bertha Vieweg, b. September 24, 1929, dau. of Ernest and Anna (Peeler) Vieweg. (*See Vieweg.*) He is a veteran of the Korean conflict. They own their house on Bean Porridge Hill Road.

Children:

1. Karl I. b. June 6, 1955.
2. Steven P. b. February 20, 1957.

HEINS

WILLIAM R. HEINS, JR. b. September 25, 1901, in Fitchburg; s. of William and Emma (Berndt) Heins; m. May 28, 1929, Aurelia Wuth, b. September 28, 1907, dau. of Emil and Mary (Hoffman) Wuth. They came to Westminster in 1929 and live on Dean Hill Road.

Children:

1. Kenneth W. b. September 1, 1929; m. Janet Van Hazinga. (*See Van Hazinga.*)
2. Verna b. May 13, 1932; m. Eino Soini of Fitchburg.

HENDRICKSON

WALTER A. HENDRICKSON b. July 4, 1919, in Baldwin Harbor, Long Island, New York; s. of Alex and Maria (Vaananen) Hendrickson; m. October 4, 1942, Ina Siren, b. June 7, 1918, in Fitchburg, dau. of Oscar and Saima (Lundgren) Siren. He is a veteran of WW II. They came to Westminster in 1951 and own their home on Gatehouse Road.

Child:

Diane b. March 10, 1950, in Fitchburg.

HENSTRIDGE

GEORGE A. HENSTRIDGE b. January 23, 1920, in Fitchburg; s. of George H. and Annie (Lawrence) Henstridge; m. June 14, 1941, Phyllis F., dau. of Ralph and Lois (Sawin) Young. (See Young.) Mr. Henstridge has served as Water Commissioner and Inspector of Wires. He is employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg. They live on Turnpike Road.

Children:

1. Patricia A. b. March 16, 1944.
2. Paula J. b. February 14, 1946.

HERMANSON

WERNER L. HERMANSON b. November 12, 1926, in Jersey City, New Jersey; s. of Leonard and Irene (Stolpe) Hermanson; m. November 8, 1952, Irma French, b. February 15, 1924, in Templeton, dau. of Carl and Ester (Johnson) French. They came to Westminster in 1954 and built their house on South Street. He is a veteran of the Korean conflict; he is employed by the Public Works Department.

Child:

Kris W. b. September 21, 1953, in Gardner.

HEROLD

WILLIAM R. HEROLD b. April 2, 1932, in Fitchburg; s. of William and Marie (Charbonneau) Herold; m. August 23, 1952, Mildred Cote, b. February 17, 1934, in Fitchburg, dau. of Joseph and Florence (Gerau) Cote. They live on Gardner State Road. He is a veteran of the Korean conflict.

Children:

1. Judy N. b. July 24, 1953, at Fort Devens.
2. Kevin R. b. July 10, 1956.
3. Cindy M. b. March 3, 1959.

HICKEY

WILLIAM R. HICKEY b. January 17, 1916, in Kingston, Ontario, Canada; s. of William and Agnes (Patterson) Hickey; m. July 31, 1943, Dorothy Gage, dau. of Franklin and Eva (Blood) Gage. (*See Gage.*) He is a veteran of WW II. They came to Westminster in 1944 and now live on Eaton Street. He is a rural mail carrier and a member of the Westminster Fire Department.

Children:

1. Dorothy A. b. September 4, 1944.
2. Margaret E. b. August 12, 1945.
3. Patricia M. b. July 21, 1946.
4. Roberta E. b. August 9, 1949.
5. Katherine M. b. and d. November 20, 1952.
6. William R., Jr. b. April 6, 1954, d. April 8, 1954.

HICKS

ARTHUR CHARLES HICKS b. November 29, 1890, in Hawley; s. of Lewis M. and Carrie E. (Willis) Hicks; m. June 21, 1921, Esther H. Gates, dau. of Albert E. and Jannette (Forsyth) Gates. (*See Gates.*) They have lived in several places in the center of town, finally settling on the George Rice place on Bacon Street. Charles Hicks

is a veteran of WW I; a carpenter by trade; and, with his son Raefield, he owns and operates a woodworking shop. He has served on the School Board. His wife has ably performed the duties of Town Clerk since 1931.

Children:

1. Raefield Millard b. May 3, 1922; m. June 7, 1947, Dorothy E. Welch, b. November 6, 1919, in Gardner, dau. of Joseph F. and Gertrude (Sweeney) Welch. He is in business with his father and lives in the home he built off Bacon Street. He is a veteran of WW II and a member of the Westminster Fire Department.

(Child forward)

2. Douglas Elwood b. December 14, 1924, killed in action over Germany in WW II September 28, 1944.
3. Lawrence Milton b. July 12, 1927; m. Helen Covellone; veteran of WW II; lives in California.

Child of Raefield M. Hicks:

Susan E. b. August 17, 1948.

HILLS

PHILLIPS A. HILLS b. March 23, 1901, in Spokane, Washington; s. of William A. and Frances (Andrews) Hills; m. June 24, 1924, Bertha M. Cotton, b. January 11, 1894, dau. of John and Nellie Cotton. They built their house on Leominster Street.

Child:

Phillips A., Jr. b. December 9, 1925, in Lowell.

HINES

EVERETT E. HINES b. July 30, 1925, in Fitchburg; s. of Earlston and Theda (Ball) Hines; m. September 1, 1952, Elsie Girard, b. July 16, 1927, in Fitchburg, dau. of Arthur and Eva (Rogers) Girard. They live on Ellis Road, where they built their house. He is a veteran of WW II, and is Assistant Superintendent of the Water Department.

HINTALA

EINO HINTALA d. April 19, 1944. He and his wife Aino (Masslin) came to Westminster with their family in 1921 and lived on Elliott Street. His widow lives in the house which she built next to her son's home.

Children:

1. Eino b. December 29, 1913; m. November 28, 1940, Loretta Russell, b. January 3, 1912, in Fitchburg, dau. of Frederick and Marie (Gendron) Russell. They live in the home which they made on Elliott Street. He is a member of the Fire Department and works for Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg. No children.
2. Aili b. April 13, 1917; m. Eli Kahkola. (*See Kahkola.*)
3. Aino b. March 2, 1930; m. Stuart Butterfield. (*See Butterfield.*)

HITCHCOCK

EDWARD W. HITCHCOCK b. March 18, 1912, in Bellows Falls, Vermont; s. of Ira and Florence (Thompson) Hitchcock; m. August 17, 1940, Elizabeth Sawyer, b. July 31, 1912, in Charlestown, New Hampshire, dau. of Robert S. and Bessie (Tidd) Sawyer. They came to Westminster in 1947. Mrs. Hitchcock was graduated from Keene Teachers College, Keene, New Hampshire, in 1933 and has taught in the Westminster school system. Mr. Hitchcock graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1934. He is employed by the Worcester County Electric Company, and serves as a Trustee of the Westminster Public Library. They make their home on Bacon Street, the former George Battles place.

Children:

1. Sue b. March 3, 1943, in Ayer.
2. Robert E. b. April 10, 1948, in Ayer.

HOLDEN

DEACON JOSEPH HOLDEN (1) was the second settler in Westminster, coming here with his family in 1737. Heywood's *History* says: "He was for some time the most active, influential and important inhabitant of the township." Many of the present inhabitants of the town claim him as a common ancestor, as well as those bearing the name of Holden.

Children of GEORGE HOLDEN (67) and Harriet (Priest) Holden:

1. Mary Jane (71) b. June 10, 1859, d. June 25, 1940; m. Louis Miller. (See Miller.)
2. William S. (73) b. September 29, 1863, d. December 18, 1952; m. Grace R. Nichols (53). (See Nichols.) Lived in Leominster; 3 children.

Children of CALVIN HOLDEN (68):

1. Jennie E. (75) b. April 15, 1855; m. William E. Gilson. (See Gilson.)
2. Cora F. (79) b. July 28, 1867, d. June 12, 1943; m. Ephraim W. Towle (See Towle.)
3. Lillian E. (80) b. December 21, 1869, d. October 12, 1947; m. Arthur C. Lombard; lived South Ashburnham; 1 child.
4. Leon L. (81) b. December 22, 1872, d. October 23, 1936; m. Edith Willard of Leominster. Lived in Gardner; no children.
5. Edna M. (82) b. April 6, 1874; unmarried.
6. Bertha T. (83) b. April 21, 1875, d. March 22, 1952; m. Frank H. Pond; lived in Leominster. He died May 16, 1914.
7. Carrie A. (84) b. May 17, 1876, d. August 3, 1939; m. Edwin Upton of Gardner; 2 children.
8. Grace G. (87) b. April 21, 1883; m.; no children.
9. Ina O. (88) b. September 4, 1884, d. January 2, 1949; m. Edward Hamlett; lived South Royalston; no children.

AMOS B. HOLDEN (90) b. July 11, 1823, d. May 4, 1909; after he retired he spent his last years on Bacon Street. His wife, Harriet A. L. (Smith), died March 3, 1921.

Child:

Harriet J. (91) b. February 26, 1849, d. March 14, 1930;
m. Edgar S. Gilson. (*See Gilson.*)

HOLM

CARL F. HOLM b. January 21, 1884, d. May 15, 1953; he and his wife, Helena (Sairanan) Holm (August 1, 1880–May 1, 1955) came to Westminster in 1921. He was a farmer and lived in the Minott District.

Children:

1. Wilho F. b. March 5, 1911, in Lanesville; m. November 20, 1943, Vieno Puyhonen.
2. Arthur V. b. June 27, 1912, in Gloucester; m. March 13, 1948, Sylvia Hokkanen, b. September 28, 1917, in Gardner, dau. of Otto and Mandi (Maenpaa) Hokkanen. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on Newton Road.

(Children forward)

3. Carl A. b. October 7, 1913, at sea; m. July 17, 1936, E. Helen Sipila, b. May 17, 1915, in Worcester, dau. of Victor and Eine (Sannti) Sipila. They live at the corner of Minott and Newton Roads.

(Children forward)

Children of Arthur Holm:

1. Linda H. b. July 8, 1949.
2. Robert A. b. December 9, 1950.
3. Edwin W. b. December 26, 1951.
4. Paul L. b. September 26, 1953.

Children of Carl A. Holm:

1. Esther H. b. December 1, 1936; m. Norman Borgeois; lives in Winchendon; 3 children.
2. Dorothy A. b. February 14, 1938; m. Howard Wilson; 2 children; served in WAVES.
3. Irene S. b. May 29, 1939.
4. Carl A., Jr. b. September 17, 1946.
5. Steven M. b. November 18, 1952.

HOLMES

FLOYD T. HOLMES b. January 16, 1920; s. of Thomas H. and Rosella (Swift) Holmes; m. April 26, 1947, Margaret Arsenault, b. January 26, 1927, in Gardner, dau. of Albenie and Mary (Bernard) Arsenault. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on Leominster Street in one of the houses built by Albert Howard in 1894.

Children:

1. Linda M. b. February 2, 1948.
2. Thomas M. b. February 5, 1949.
3. Julie A. b. November 24, 1953.
4. Philip F. b. June 1, 1955.

HONKONEN

ROBERT E. HONKONEN b. January 30, 1932, in Fitchburg; s. of Lauri and Ida (Matson) Honkonen; m. June 18, 1955, Ann Roper. (See Roper.) He is a veteran of the Korean conflict. They built their home on Shady Avenue.

Child:

- Cheryl A. b. October 14, 1956.

HOUGHTON

RONALD C. HOUGHTON b. May 19, 1893, in Gardner; s. of Clinton C. and May (Herbert) Houghton. He came to Westminster with his parents in 1905 and for several years has made his home with his sister, Mrs. Sherman Rice. He is a veteran of WW I.

HOWARD

There are two Howard families in Westminster, descended from the first settler of that name, NATHAN, who settled here in 1761. (Heywood's *History*, page 713.)

1. Albert Howard (24) of the 7th generation; b. May 23, 1845, d. December 18, 1931.

(Children forward)

2. J. Frank Howard (25), also of the 7th generation, but of a different branch of the family; b. October 6, 1826, d. February 25, 1909.

(Children forward)

Children of Albert Howard:

1. Elizabeth (31) b. October 5, 1875, d. May 9, 1918; m. Edwin C. Prescott of Ayer.
2. Alberta (32) b. January 11, 1878, d. March 19, 1922; m. Lester D. Jillson of Gardner. Died in Greenfield.
3. Nathan D. (34) b. October 9, 1881; m. January 1, 1912, Celina D. Reed, b. November 19, 1885, d. November 17, 1955, dau. of Henry D. and Louisa P. (Whitman) Reed of Whitman. He lives on Academy Hill.

(Children forward)

Children of J. Frank Howard:

1. Edson H. (38) b. November 2, 1857, d. January 6, 1942; m. Alice R. Norton. He was a chairmaker and lived on the Gardner Road, now the home of his son.

(Children forward)

2. Nellie (39) b. October 20, 1859, d. May 19, 1955; unmarried; a seamstress; lived in Fitchburg after 1898.

Children of Nathan D. Howard:

1. Barbara Whitman b. October 19, 1915; m. H. Raymond Morse (*See Morse*).
2. Beulah Davis b. November 28, 1919; graduate of Fitchburg Teachers College; unmarried; lives in Westminster.

Children of Edson H. Howard:

1. Harry Norton b. August 14, 1887; m. September 16, 1922, Lois Mossman, b. June 18, 1887, dau. of Dr. Alvaro and Mary (Eacott) Mossman. (*See Mossman*.) He is a veteran of WW I; has been a member of the Town Advisory Committee since

1953. Mrs. Howard is a member of the committee compiling this history of Westminster.
2. Harlow Oscar b. March 19, 1891; m. (1) February 26, 1913, in Cavendish, Vermont, Marion E. Sherman (d. in Ashburnham December 16, 1918); m. (2) June 25, 1927, in West Dover, Vermont, Hazel Davis. They live in West Dover, Vermont.

HOWARD

J. PHILIP HOWARD, b. February 16, 1907, in Hubbardston; s. of George and Mary (Lanphear) Howard; m. April 22, 1933, Ann E. Dobie, b. September 22, 1910, in Worcester, dau. of John and Lura Ann (Pond) Dobie. They came to Westminster in 1939. Mr. Howard is a graduate of Clark College and Harvard Law School. He was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in October, 1933. He maintains a law office in Gardner, and has been the Representative to the General Court from his district since 1941. He has served as Moderator, and is a Trustee of the Westminster Public Library. Mrs. Howard has served on the School Committee.

Children:

1. John A. b. March 23, 1934; graduate of Brown University; m. Linda Perkins; 2 children.
2. Geoffrey M. b. July 4, 1939; a student at Kenyon College.
3. Hugh G. b. September 9, 1952.

HOWE

LEROY W. HOWE (39) b. May 6, 1841, d. June 17, 1918; m. Ella M. Wood (d. May 25, 1927) dau. of James and Sarah (Barnes) Wood. He came here from Ashburnham and lived on the James Wood place on Pleasant Street, now the home of Arthur Rice. Mr. Howe was a Civil War veteran. He drove a Bakery team for many years.

Child:

Agnes M. b. April 10, 1876; m. Ernest C. Mansur. (See Mansur.)

HUGHES

CHARLES E. HUGHES b. September 12, 1926, in Boston, s. of Charles and Edna (Simonds) Hughes; m. October 25, 1948, Lorraine Chivilo, b. January 4, 1931, in Hartford, Connecticut, dau. of Arthur and RoseMary (Provnick) Chivilo. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on Depot Road, where they own their house.

Children:

1. David A. b. July 22, 1949.
2. Michael K. b. November 13, 1950.
3. Jeffrey A. b. April 20, 1952.
4. Kevin T. b. August 30, 1955.

HURD

ARNO E. HURD (2) b. December 24, 1864, d. January 28, 1931; s. of Daniel (1) and Ruth (Bruce) Hurd; m. Ella M. Flagg (10) (d. April 14, 1936). He was a farmer and lived on the Garfield Farm on the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike. A man of genial temperament, he was elected to the Board of Assessors in 1918 and to the School Board in 1928, holding both offices at the time of his sudden death.

Children:

1. Robert O. b. February 16, 1889; m. Hazel P. Hyde of Templeton; lives in Fitchburg; 3 children.
2. Ruth L. b. April 20, 1891; m. Albert R. Walker. (See Walker.)
3. Dency b. November 17, 1892; m. Howard L. Paine of Holden; lives in Westboro; 7 children.
4. Arno E. b. July 24, 1894, d. January 24, 1952; m. Mary Foster of Amherst, Maine; veteran of WW I; 1 child.
5. Faye b. July 22, 1899, d. November 27, 1950; m. Leslie L. Reed; children: Lawrence N., b. November 21, 1917;

- Doris Faye, b. January 27, 1920; Charles O., b. January 28, 1922, veteran of WW II; Earl L., b. October 18, 1923; Rowena M., b. October 11, 1925. (*See Reed.*)
6. Albert F. b. February 17, 1902; m. Vera Crouch of West Swanzey, New Hampshire; lives West Swanzey; 6 children.
 7. Rachel b. January 3, 1906; m. Edmund B. Reed; lives in Ashburnham; 3 children.
 8. Edna M. b. April 16, 1907; m. Edwin T. Heald; lives in Harrisville, New Hampshire; 3 children.
 9. Avis R. b. February 9, 1911, d. March 19, 1922.

HURME

TED (TEPPO) U. HURME b. January 8, 1910, in Helsinki, Finland; s. of Oscar and Dagmar (Berkovits) Hurme; m. September 3, 1933, Rachel A. Maki, b. May 10, 1914, in Fitchburg, dau. of Emil and Selma (Pera) Maki. (*See Maki.*) They lived for a time in Gardner; then in 1940 built their house in Westminster on Leominster Street. He is employed as machinist by Gem Crib and Cradle Company of Gardner.

Children:

1. Evelyn R. b. January 6, 1942.
2. Shirley A. b. July 20, 1943.
3. Beverly J. b. July 29, 1947.

HUTCHINSON

LEROY W. HUTCHINSON b. October 22, 1885, in Gardner, d. November 8, 1951; s. of Guilford S. and Margaret L. (McConnell) Hutchinson; m. May 19, 1921, Bertha Hamilton, b. February 12, 1891, in Boston, d. March 1, 1956, dau. of John R. and Luella (Whitney) Hamilton, foster dau. of Mrs. Elizabeth Bolton (25) Whitney, with whom she lived from the time she was two years old. They made their home with Mrs. Whitney on Leominster Street in the house where Rodney Luchford now lives. Mrs. Hutchinson gave freely of her time to all civic affairs and was a member of the Republican Town Committee at the time of her

death. "Budge," as he was known to everyone, worked as traffic manager for S. Bent Brothers of Gardner. He was a member of the Selective Service Board for this district during WW II. No children.

INNERASKY

HERBERT H. INNERASKY b. January 30, 1913, in Fitchburg; s. of Herman B. and Rosie (Rossner) Innerasky; m. November 16, 1935, Velma M. Flagg, dau. of Wallace and Stella (Seaver) Flagg. They live with her mother on Seaver Street. He is a veteran of WW II. He is employed by Holmes Electrotype Foundry of Worcester

Children:

1. JoAnn b. January 7, 1943.
2. Karen Velma b. November 13, 1946.

INNIS

CHARLES LANE INNIS b. in Hillsboro, Illinois; s. of William P. and Jesse M. (Lane) Innis; m. May 26, 1939, Lois H. Frissell, b. September 18, 1915, in New Jersey, dau. of Nelson and Frances (Huston) Frissell. They bought and restored the old house in South Westminster formerly known as the Elias Holden place, where Mr. Innis and his son still live.

Child:

- Charles Lane, Jr., b. September 13, 1943.

ISOKANGAS

VIETTI ISOKANGAS came to Westminster from Fitchburg in 1950; m. June 29, 1950, Valma Tani, b. March 2, 1907, in Gardner, dau. of Anton and Selma (Arkko) Tani. They live on West Princeton Road. No children.

JALO

JOHN F. JALO b. February 1, 1937, in Ayer; s. of John A. and Florence (Bacon) Jalo; m. September 17, 1955, Claudia M. Roper. (See Roper.) They own their place on North Common Road.

Children:

1. Catherine L. b. May 27, 1956.
2. Alicia B. b. January 2, 1958.

JARVELA

EDWARD J. JARVELA b. September 26, 1905, in Milford, New Hampshire; m. July 13, 1929, Aino Kerttu, b. March 17, 1905, in Toholampi, Finland. They came to Westminster in 1951 and live on Ashburnham State Road.

Child:

- Laila J. b. April 28, 1945, in Fitchburg.

JEAN

PHILIP J. JEAN b. October 6, 1924, in Fitchburg; s. of Joseph and Yvonne (Violette) Jean; m. June 28, 1947, Jean M. Rowe. (See Rowe.) They live with her father on Leominster Street. He is a veteran of WW II; employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

Child:

- Philip J. b. October 20, 1955.

JENKINS

WILLIAM H. JENKINS b. July 12, 1891, in Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania; s. of Henry and Nora (Congram) Jenkins; m. June 8, 1921, Grace M. Ticehurst, b. in Potton, Quebec, dau. of Berton and Jane (Brown) Ticehurst. They came to Westminster in 1932 and live on East Road. Mr. Jenkins served in the Merchant Marine in WW I. They have no children.

JOHNSON

HJALMAR JOHNSON b. February 6, 1896, in Gardner; s. of Erick and Mary (Nisula) Johnson; m. December 18, 1915, Lizzie Johnson, b. in Harma, Finland, dau. of Kusti and Amalia (Maki) Johnson. They came to Westminster in 1926 and settled on Knower Road. There they have a large and prosperous chicken farm, which they operate with the help of their two sons.

Children:

1. Walter b. September 1, 1916, in Gardner; m. September 18, 1940, June A. Bartlett of Nashua, New Hampshire. He is associated with his father on the chicken farm and lives on Knower Road.

(Children forward)

2. Harold L. b. May 31, 1918, in Gardner; m. June 27, 1940, Geneva M. Sanborn of Fitchburg. Like his brother, he is associated with his father on the chicken farm. They live on Carter Road.

(Child forward)

Children of Walter Johnson:

1. Dennis A. b. April 3, 1943.
2. Darlene A. b. April 13, 1945.
3. Dean W. b. January 3, 1955.

Child of Harold L. Johnson:

1. Donna M. b. April 30, 1945.

JOHNSON

WILLIAM JOHNSON b. December 9, 1889, in Pieksamaki, Finland, s. of John A. and Ida (Kauppinen) Janhunen; m. April 18, 1920, Hilda Manninen, b. November 25, 1884, in Kangasniemi, Finland, dau. of Malkia and Maria (Arkko) Manninen. They make their home on Lake Shore Drive.

Children:

1. Sylvia b. February 24, 1913; m. Eino Haynes. (*See Haynes.*)
2. Sally b. September 12, 1914; m. Ensio Oinonen; lives in Winchendon; 2 children.

JOHNSON

WILLIAM S. JOHNSON b. August 2, 1891, in Finland, s. of John and Mary (Tainio) Johnson; m. October 9, 1920, Fredricka Tervonen, b. February 10, 1884, in Finland, dau. of Ananias and Eva (Leino) Tervonen. They make their home on Whitney Road in the Minott District. Mr. Johnson served several terms on the Board of Selectmen; also on the Ration Board during WW II.

Child:

Raymond A. b. June 2, 1927; m. Martha M. Laurila; veteran of WW II.

JONES

ALFRED PAUL JONES b. July 1, 1899, in Fitchburg; s. of William and Mary E. (Woodhead) Jones; m. September 16, 1922, Doris H. Beer, b. July 8, 1901, in Fitchburg, dau. of Michael and Susan (Norman) Beer. When first married they lived in Fitchburg, where their daughters were born. They come to Westminster in 1931 and purchased their present house on Academy Street, formerly known as "the Deacon Peckham place." Mr. Jones has been employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg for many years. He served the town on the Welfare Board, and Mrs. Jones was a member of the School Board for several years.

Children:

1. Susan b. February 25, 1928; graduate of Western College for Women; m. Francis W. Niedenuhr; lives in Columbus, Ohio; 2 daughters.
2. Mary b. April 8, 1929; graduate of Rhode Island School of Design; m. Paul Winston Dunn (*See Dunn*).

KAHKOLA

PETER KAHKOLA was the third Finnish farmer to settle in Westminster, he and his wife Mary (Orava) settling on and buying the former Lavers property, now the Westminster Country Club. They had five children, two of whom settled in Westminster.

Children:

1. Eli P. b. June 2, 1917; m. June 23, 1940, Aili Hintala, b. April 13, 1917 in Clinton, dau. of Eino and Aino (Masslin) Hintala. He is a veteran of WW II, and they live in the house on Elliott Street which he built in 1953.
2. Anna E. b. Red Lodge, Montana; m. July 27, 1929, Ilmari K. Klemetti; 3 children. (See Klemetti.)

Child of Eli P. Kahkola:

Aileen b. December 10, 1946.

KAMILA

ADOLF KAMILA b. August 28, 1916, in Worth County, Georgia; s. of Oscar and Anna (Raspana) Kamila; came to Westminster with his parents in 1919. He m. September 18, 1943, Lahja Irene Tuomi, dau. of Axel and Ida E. (Ilves) Tuomi. (See Tuomi.) They live on East Road.

Children:

1. Joyce I. b. February 10, 1945.
2. Richard A. b. September 11, 1946, d. May 10, 1947.
3. David A. b. December 7, 1947.
4. Linda L. b. February 16, 1949.
5. Thomas A. b. June 28, 1950.
6. Julie A. b. September 12, 1951.
7. Karen E. b. November 4, 1957.

KAUPPINEN

JOHN W. KAUPPINEN b. March 4, 1921, in Buzzards Bay; s. of John W. and Sandra (Mosie) Kauppinen; m. November 9, 1951,

Marie Stark, b. December 5, 1921, in Boston, dau. of Jackus and Mary (Reginus) Stark. They came to Westminster in 1953 and live on Shady Avenue, where they have built a house. He is employed by Heywood-Wakefield Company of Gardner.

Child:

Christine M. b. January 14, 1957.

KELTY

FRANK E. KELTY b. January 29, 1859, d. July 28, 1930; s. of Bartholomew and Maria (Minns) Kelty; m. May 30, 1886, Ada M. Baker (d. February 11, 1952). (*See Baker.*) They lived on Main Street in the house next the Pantry Shelf. He worked in the Cracker Bakery most of his life. He was a member of the Fire Department.

Child:

Lester J. Kelty b. November 19, 1886, d. September 17, 1951; m. September 6, 1916, Elizabeth M. Moran, b. December 25, 1890, in Gardner, dau. of William H. and Hannah N. (Butler) Moran. He built the house on Main Street that is now the home of his daughter, Mrs. Joseph Aveni. His widow, who has been a member of the Democratic Town Committee, lives with her daughter.

Children of Lester J. Kelty:

1. Geraldine b. September 2, 1917, d. November 11, 1952; m. Toivo Waltonen.
2. Lester J., Jr. b. April 27, 1919; m. Elaine M. White; 1 child; in Air Force since 1943, with rank of Captain 1958.
3. Caroline E. b. November 11, 1922; m. (1) William E. Mahoney—1 child; m. (2) Michael G. Marrone; lives in Ashburnham; 3 children.
4. Elizabeth L. b. June 8, 1928; m. Joseph Aveni. (*See Aveni.*)

KEMPI

DAVID J. KEMPI, b. June 17, 1915, in Leominster; s. of David and Anna H. (Korhonen) Kempfi; m. February 6, 1937, Stazy Marchewka, b. July 4, 1915, in Gardner, dau. of Adam and Catherine (Cudnik) Marchewka. He is a veteran of WW II. He came to Westminster in 1922, and in 1950 built a house on Route 2. He works for General Electric Company. His wife has been employed at the Gardner State Hospital since 1955.

Children:

1. Barbara M. b. November 11, 1937.
2. David J., Jr. b. June 15, 1941.

KENYON

RODNEY L. KENYON b. October 22, 1922, in Fitchburg; s. of Willis and Gertrude (Kendall) Kenyon; m. September 12, 1945, Beverly A. Beer, b. February 21, 1923, in Fitchburg, dau. of Royden S. and Annie (Newcombe) Beer. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on Leominster Street, where they built their house. He is employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

Child:

- Hilary b. August 23, 1947.

KESKINEN

HENRY KESKINEN b. January 19, 1881, d. November 19, 1948, and his wife Hanna (Hakkinen) came to Westminster in 1920. They lived off upper Main Street, where they ran a poultry farm. They also had a milk route in the village. Mrs. Keskinen still lives there.

Children:

1. Aino b. November 22, 1917, in Franklin; a graduate nurse; m. Lennard Salo. (*See Salo.*)
2. Aune b. May 3, 1921; a graduate nurse; m. Eino Niinimaki. (*See Niinimaki.*)

KEURULAINEN

TOIVO J. KEURULAINEN b. April 15, 1916, in Fitchburg; s. of John and Mary (Hautamaki) Keurulainen; m. February 9, 1946, Miriam D. Maki, b. April 23, 1920, in Fitchburg, dau. of Emil and Selma (Pera) Maki. (*See Maki.*) They came to Westminster in 1949, living on Church Street. He is a veteran of WW II, and employed by Fitchburg Paper Company.

Children:

1. James E. b. May 9, 1947, in Fitchburg.
2. Barry J. b. March 21, 1952, in Fitchburg.

KINNARI

CHARLES K. KINNARI b. June 6, 1879, d. August 10, 1952, and his wife, Ida M. (Huhtala) Kinnari (d. September 22, 1956), lived on a farm on Harrington Road for many years.

Children:

1. Waino K. b. July 31, 1904, in Fitchburg; veteran of WW II; unmarried; lives on the homestead.
2. Allie A. b. January 17, 1911, in Fitchburg; m. — Hughes; lives in Great Barrington.

KLEMETTI

ILMARI K. KLEMETTI b. Kaajani, Finland, d. September 30, 1951; s. of Koasta and Anna (Heikkinen) Klemetti; m. July 27, 1929, Anna E. Kahkola. (*See Kahkola.*) He came to Westminster in 1927 and in 1941 built a house on Ellis Road. Mrs. Klemetti is a teacher in the Westminster school system.

Children:

1. Mary E. b. June 10, 1937; m. David R. McCarthy, Jr.
2. Wayne I. b. May 30, 1939; attends Fitchburg Teachers College.
3. Barbara A. b. February 21, 1946.

KNOWER

CHARLES F. KNOWER (12) b. December 21, 1856, d. August 11, 1927; s. of Horace B. and Mary A. (Sawin) Knower; m. November 26, 1879, Edith E. (d. April 22, 1946), dau. of George H. and Emily (Taylor) Prescott. Until 1923 they lived in the Minott District on the farm which had been in his family for four generations; then they moved to the Prescott house on South Street, now owned by Wilton Clark.

Children:

1. Henry Horace (13) b. January 10, 1882, d. October 1, 1947; m. Annie E. Baker (*See Baker*); resided in Westminster and Templeton; 6 children.
2. Alvin Lawrence (14) b. June 19, 1884; unmarried; resides on South Street.
3. Gladys Georgiana (15) b. August 19, 1886; m. Chester E. Lynde. (*See Lynde.*)
4. Bessie Maria (16) b. November 8, 1888; m. Michael Paskuskas of Gardner; resides in Fitchburg; 4 children.
5. Mary Emily (17) b. August 11, 1890; m. Rev. Edward J. Abar. (*See Abar.*)
6. Eleanor Prescott b. November 9, 1895; m. J. Albert Roy; resides in Fitchburg; no children.
7. Arthur Herman b. September 11, 1902; m. (1) Elizabeth Kindred; m. (2) ———; resides in Northfield; 3 children.

KOSKI

TOIVO F. KOSKI b. December 30, 1915, in Phillipston; s. of Jalmar and Anne (Karjalainen) Koski; m. May 31, 1949, Saara M. Parnanen, dau. of Andrew and Katri (Tuchimaa) Parnanen. (*See Parnanen.*) Mr. Koski is a veteran of WW II. They live on East Gardner Road in the house formerly occupied by her parents.

Child:

Andrew T. b. July 2, 1957.

KRANS

IVAR KRANS b. August 15, 1885, in Finland; s. of Elias and Amanda (Rjorpakka) Krans; m. there March 27, 1909, Hilja Nygord, b. February 2, 1889, in Finland, dau. of John and Amanda (Merila) Nygord. They came to Westminster in 1920 and settled on the John Goodridge place on North Common.

Children (born before parents came to Westminster):

1. Kaino A. b. December 3, 1909, d. February 23, 1959; m. Tauno Kiuru; 1 daughter.
2. Linnea M. b. October 1, 1911; m. Kaino Poikonen. (See Poikonen.)

KRASAWSKI

PAUL KRASAWSKI b. August 15, 1918, in Gardner; s. of Frank and Annie (Klimankas) Krasawski; m. May 20, 1946, Hendryka Novakowski, b. July 20, 1918, in Gardner, dau of Stanislaw and Stefanja (Klys) Novakowski. He is a veteran of WW II. They came to Westminster in 1951 and live on North Common Road. He is co-owner of Kott Manufacturing Company (upholsterers) of Gardner.

Children:

1. Paula A. b. November 18, 1949, in Gardner.
2. James P. b. July 13, 1952.

KULCZYK

LEON Z. KULCZYK b. April 6, 1923, in Gardner; s. of William and Victoria (Maluchnik) Kulczyk; m. November 5, 1949, E. Louise Staveley, b. January 11, 1927, in Lowell, dau. of Wilford and Thorne (Hollis) Stavely. He is a veteran of WW II. She is a registered nurse. They came to Westminster in 1952, and live on Sargent Road.

Children:

1. David A. b. March 31, 1951.
2. Sally A. b. February 7, 1954.
3. Randy W. b. January 19, 1956.

KURIKKA

EINO Y. KURIKKA b. September 20, 1910, in Fitchburg; s. of Victor and Niame (Yusola) Kurikka; m. September 6, 1948, Lillian B. Handy, b. in Worcester, dau. of Leo J. and Ethel (Divoll) Handy. They live on Kurikka Place.

Children:

1. Gail Edith b. August 15, 1951, in Gardner.
2. Sandra Jean b. July 5, 1953, in Gardner.

LAASANEN

TOIVO W. LAASANEN b. March 2, 1908, in Gardner; s. of William and Helena (Nisula) Laasanen; m. July 8, 1941, Anna A. Nottonen, b. July 1, 1911, in Fitchburg, dau. of Oscar and Emma (Rasi) Nottonen. They live on Bacon Street.

Children:

1. Alvin T. b. June 11, 1944.
2. Anita E. b. August 5, 1948.

LAFORTUNE

EDWARD A. LAFORTUNE b. December 10, 1897, in Fitchburg; s. of Arthur and Marie (Lussier) LaFortune; m. January 8, 1923, Marguerite Jeannotte, b. September 5, 1901, in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, dau. of Ulric and Marie L. (Benoit) Jeannotte. He is a veteran of WW I. They live in Leino Park.

Children:

1. Paul b. June 7, 1929; m. Helen DeBlois.
2. Jacqueline b. April 23, 1931.

LAFOSSE

ARMAND J. LAFOSSE b. April 7, 1916, in Fitchburg; s. of Alfred and Virginia (Lemourx) LaFosse; m. September 8, 1938, Margaret J. Bryant, b. March 17, 1918, in Fitchburg, dau. of Perley and Mary (Sullivan) Bryant. He is a veteran of WW II. They came to Westminster in 1950 and live on Turnpike Road.

Children:

1. David A. b. January 10, 1940; m. Nina Joy Moeller of Texas; 1 son.
2. Patricia M. b. October 16, 1945.

LAHTINEN

KARL LAHTINEN b. August 4, 1881, in Tampere, Finland; s. of Karl and Mina (Ahiquist) Lahtinen; m. 1906 Evelyn Heitikko, b. August 16, 1884, in Ylisturo, Finland, dau. of John and Sophia Heitikko. They have been residents of Westminster for more than forty years, making their home in the Narrows.

Children:

1. Lahja b. June 23, 1907, in Fitchburg; m. Alfred Bestoney; lives in Winchester; 1 son.
2. Ahti A. b. July 4, 1909, in Fitchburg; m. June 30, 1939, Vesta Ann Jordan, dau. of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Jordan of Gardiner, Maine. He works for Crocker-Burbank. They live on East Road. No children.
3. Arne b. November 16, 1911, in Fitchburg; m. May 26, 1933, Rachel Gage. (See Gage.) He works for General Electric Company in Fitchburg. They live on East Road.

Children of Arne Lahtinen:

1. Arne b. March 22, 1941.
2. William b. October 10, 1944.
3. Peter b. October 11, 1949.

LAMSA

TOIVO LAMSA b. August 2, 1918, in Fitchburg; s. of Mikko and Ellen (Joslin) Lamsa; m. March 27, 1943, Celia Chace, b. March 18, 1921, in Swansea, dau. of Anthony F. and Ethel (Cady) Chace. He graduated from Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts in 1940; is a veteran of WW II. Mrs. Lamsa graduated from Framingham Teachers College in 1942 and is a former teacher.

ALVAH V. LAMSA b. September 7, 1927, lives with his brother. He is a farmer.

Children of Toivo Lamsa:

1. Kent M. b. December 1, 1946, in Hartford, Conn.
2. Dean A. b. February 14, 1950.
3. Justin C. b. February 15, 1956.

LANOUE

WILFRED LANOUE b. March 9, 1901 in Boston; s. of Ambrose and Helen (Martin) Lanoue; m. December 18, 1922, (1) Mary R. Garrity (b. October 22, 1902, in Holyoke, d. February 25, 1949), dau. of Michale and Ida (Ferron) Garrity. He served in the United States Regular Army. In 1941 he bought land on Elliott Street and built the house now owned by Allen Leavenworth. He has worked for the Gardner State Hospital but now owns and operates a laundry and cleaning establishment. He m. (2) in 1950 Rachel Cushing.

Children of Wilfred and Mary Garrity Lanoue:

1. Evelyn b. April 2, 1924; m. Norman Goss; lives in No. Grafton; 1 child.
2. Wilfred H., Jr. b. January 3, 1926 in Hawley, Mass; m. Germaine Fredett; lives in Eau Gallie, Florida.
3. Eugene C. b. July 28, 1928, in Hawley, Mass; m. January 5, 1952, Eleanor Foster, b. March 15, 1933 in Cleveland, Ohio, dau. of William E. and Ethel M. (Hatherell) Foster. He is a veteran of the Korean conflict; he owns and operates the Cape Ann Diner. They live on Ellis Road.

(Children forward)

4. Robert V. b. January 4, 1933; m. 1952 Ada D. Whitehead, b. December 5, 1932, in Liverpool Lanes, England, dau. of Herbert and Dorsi J. (Southern) Whitehead. He is serving in the Regular Army.

(Children forward)

Child of Rachel Cushing Lanoue by her first marriage:

1. Betsey Cushing b. May 26, 1940; dental assistant; makes her home with them.

Children of Eugene C. Lanoue:

1. Darlene M. b. August 30, 1954.
2. Gary E. b. January 19, 1957.

Children of Robert V. Lanoue:

1. Linda M. b. January 22, 1953 in Warrington Lanes, England.
2. Kathleen D. b. April 30, 1954.
3. Debra H. (now deceased) b. San Bernadino, California, June 7, 1957.

LANSON

ONNIE W. LANSON b. September 6, 1895, in Fitchburg; s. of Otto W. and Ida (Toko) Lanson; m. July 31, 1925, Martha E. Iihola, b. March 23, 1907, in Viipuri, Finland, dau. of Andrew and Masio (Tormi) Iihola. He is a veteran of WW I. They came to Westminster in 1934 and live on Depot Road. He is employed at Norton Company in Worcester.

Child:

- Beverly P. b. August 16, 1928.

LASALLE

LEON O. LASALLE b. May 10, 1919, in Winchendon; s. of Oliver and Antoinette (LaFortune) LaSalle; m. October 11, 1941, Gertrude Sadinkangas, b. December 20, 1919, in Gardner, dau. of Oscar and Amanda (Oakland) Sadinkangas. They came here in

1944 and lived for several years on Leominster Street in the house owned by Mrs. Maude Mansur. In 1956 they built a new home on West Main Street. He is a veteran of WW II; works in Worcester.

Children:

1. Leo F. b. January 19, 1943.
2. Lester L. b. December 8, 1945.

LAUGHTON

DUGAL C. LAUGHTON b. September 12, 1886, in Hodgden, Maine; s. of John A. and Susan (Wilcox) Laughton; m. August 22, 1906 (1) Hazel M. b. October 19, 1886, in Haverhill (now deceased), dau. of George and Mary (Cook) Harlow; m. May 24, 1930 (2) Helen L. White, b. May 19, 1884, in Worcester, dau. of Isaac D. and Caroline E. (Gilbert) White. They came to Westminster in 1930 and bought the former Donaldson farm on Town Farm Road.

Children:

1. Earl H. b. 1907 in Haverhill; m. Gladys Ellis; lives in Malden; 1 child.
2. Cameron b. 1909 in Haverhill; m. Florence Cannes; lives in Arlington, Virginia; 1 child.
3. Shirley b. 1916 in Haverhill; m. Cosmo Ciccariello; lives in Newton Highlands; 1 child.
4. Herbert b. 1924 in Haverhill; m. Florence Lancey; lives in Ashburnham; 2 children.
5. Elizabeth A. (adopted) b. 1935; m. Donald Nyman; 4 children.

LAWRENCE

RICHARD H. LAWRENCE, JR. b. November 26, 1928, in Fitchburg; s. of Richard H. and Stella (Cushing) Lawrence; m. April 26, 1952, Elaine M. Wenzel, b. March 8, 1928, in Jackson Heights, New York; dau. of Roger W. and Bertha (Pospisil) Wenzel. They lived in Fitchburg for a time, and in 1953 bought from Paul

Woodward the George Miles place on Carter Road, where they make their home. Mr. Lawrence attended Andover and Amherst College, and is now associated with Lawrence and Klein of Fitchburg. Mrs. Lawrence attended Katharine Gibbs School of New York; she is a member of the Republican Town Committee.

Children:

1. Richard H. 3rd b. January 20, 1953, in Fitchburg.
2. Roger W. b. July 3, 1955.
3. John C. b. October 19, 1957.

LAWS

The Laws family were early settlers in the north or Dean Hill section of the town. They were always interested in town affairs; often held town office. The last member of the family to live here was Eugene Hiram Laws.

ANNA C. LAWS (45) b. May 24, 1857, d. October 21, 1932, dau. of James Harvey Laws; unmarried. She was an authority on wild flowers, especially on ferns.

EUGENE HIRAM LAWS (46) b. September 20, 1873, in Clinton, d. March 19, 1944; s. of Hiram and Mary E. (Dutton) Laws; m. July 21, 1909, Alice Clare Glassbrook of Berkeley, California (d. February 15, 1940). He was a graduate of Cushing Academy and of M.I.T. in 1896. He was in business in various cities in the West for many years. He returned to Westminster when he retired, and in 1931 acquired possession of the Laws family place on Dean Hill. After his wife's death he and his sister continued to occupy the farm. He served on the Board of Assessors.

JULIA ELLEN LAWS (47) b. January 8, 1886 in Bedford, dau. of Hiram and Mary E. (Dutton) Laws. She is a graduate nurse.

LEAVENWORTH

GORDON F. LEAVENWORTH b. May 12, 1894, in Roxbury, Connecticut, s. of Frederick and Charlotte (Roswell) Leavenworth; m. August 22, 1917, Lois B. Beardsley, b. August 10, 1896 in Rox-

bury, Connecticut, dau. of Nathan and Charlotte (Peck) Beardsley. They lived in several places before coming to Westminster in 1942. They bought the former Bacon place on Roper Road, where with their sons, Gordon and Allen, they operate the Leavenworth Dairy, which was incorporated in 1952. Mr. Leavenworth was employed by Crocker-Burbank for many years.

Children:

1. Gordon P. b. May 27, 1918, in Waterbury, Connecticut; m. September 1, 1939, Gladys C. White, b. May 23, 1916, in Marion, dau. of Howard E. and Dora A. (Harding) White. They own their house on Turnpike Road. He is a veteran of WW II. Mrs. Leavenworth has served on the School Committee, and has been a member of the Regional School Committee since its inception in 1954.

(Children forward)

2. Edwin B. b. July 28, 1919, in Waterbury, Connecticut; m. April 10, 1940, Evelyn Grondin, b. October 2, 1921, dau. of Wilfred and Eva Grondin. They lived in Westminster when first married; then elsewhere for a time; and now own their home on Newcomb Road.

(Children forward)

3. Robert P. b. September 13, 1921, in Waterbury, Connecticut; m. Ann Pisciotta; veteran of WW II; lives in California; 1 child.
4. Esther M. b. January 28, 1923, in Waterbury, Connecticut; m. Carl W. Ringquist, Jr.; lives in Perkinsville, Vermont; 6 children.
5. Allen L. b. August 2, 1924, in Holden; m. September 14, 1946, Leonore M. Lawrence of Fitchburg. They live on Elliott Street. He is in the dairy business with his father and brother. He is a veteran of WW II.

(Children forward)

6. Richard P. b. June 27, 1927, in Fitchburg, d. June 9, 1942.

Children of Gordon P. Leavenworth:

1. Gordon A. b. April 10, 1941; serving in Coast Guard, Groton, Connecticut.
2. Richard H. b. March 26, 1944.
3. Robert E. b. July 30, 1958.

Children of Edwin B. Leavenworth:

1. Nathan F. b. January 28, 1941.
2. Betty B. b. July 17, 1942.
3. Charlotte L. b. October 4, 1943.
4. Linda J. b. June 13, 1948.
5. Nancy b. September 25, 1953.

Children of Allen L. Leavenworth:

1. Gary A. b. August 12, 1947.
2. Allan S. b. January 15, 1952.
3. John L. b. October 23, 1956.

LECLAIR

GEORGE A. LECLAIR with his wife, Eva M. (Roy) LeClair, came to Westminster in 1935, when they bought their house on Turnpike Road, well-known as the birthplace of General Nelson A. Miles.

Children:

1. Ronald G. b. February 7, 1914, in Gardner; m. May 16, 1942, Pauline J. Perodeau, b. April 19, 1918, in Leominster, dau. of Lionel and Ida M. (Pacquette) Perodeau. They live on Turnpike Road.

(Child forward)

2. Edward J. b. February 1, 1920, in Templeton; m. July 7, 1945, Margaret A. Waddell, b. April 3, 1921, in Fitchburg, dau. of Matthew and Annie (Brown) Waddell. He is a veteran of WW II; employed by Simonds Saw and Steel Company of Fitchburg. They built their house on Depot Road in 1947.

(Children forward)

Child of Ronald LeClair:

Janet M. b. December 9, 1944, in Fitchburg.

Children of Edward LeClair:

1. Ralph E. b. August 10, 1946.
2. Judith A. b. September 4, 1955.

LECLAIR

JOSEPH A. LECLAIR b. August 10, 1914, in Gardner; s. of Arthur and Rosanna (Poirior) LeClair; m. June 29, 1946, Leontina Skorko, b. January 6, 1920, dau. of John and Jadwiga (Branto) Skorko. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on Gardner State Road.

Children:

1. Eileen P. b. October 10, 1947.
2. Janice M. b. November 27, 1949.
3. James F. b. January 22, 1952.

L'ECUYER

HERMAN A. L'ECUYER b. September 26, 1911, in Fitchburg; s. of Alexander and Aurore (Beauchemin) L'Ecuyer; m. July 1, 1939, Edna M. Mackey, b. August 5, 1915, in Fitchburg, dau. of Otto and Helmi (Laitala) Mackey. Their house is on Route 140 near the Smith Reservoir. Mrs. L'Ecuyer is a successful teacher in the Westminster school system.

Children:

1. Richard F. b. April 1941, d. November 28, 1941.
2. Marilyn A. b. October 12, 1942, in Fitchburg.
3. Carolyn M. b. October 20, 1946, d. October 26, 1946.

LILIUS

WALTER E. LILIUS b. December 28, 1909, in Quincy; s. of August and Alina (Siren) Lilius; m. June 24, 1939, Edith R. Fisher, b. July 24, 1918, in Fitchburg, dau. of Max and Ruth (Silverstein) Fisher. They came to Westminster in 1941 and own their place on Dean Hill Road. He is employed by Simonds Saw and Steel Company in Fitchburg.

Children:

1. Walter A. b. December 7, 1941; attends Worcester Polytechnic Institute.
2. Joan E. b. October 11, 1946.

LINDQUIST

CARL N. LINDQUIST b. December 29, 1903, in Sarna Dalerna, Sweden; s. of Nils and Caroline (Sakariason) Lindquist; m. January 30, 1926, Sylvi Selina Helala, b. March 5, 1902 in Lead City, South Dakota, dau. of Jonas and Liinu (Jarvela) Helala. Mr. & Mrs. Lindquist came to Westminster in 1927, buying the former Farwell Morse place at North Common, which they have restored and renovated to make their present attractive home. He is employed by the Norton Company of Worcester.

LINDROTH

LEONARD C. LINDROTH b. October 24, 1923, in Gardner, s. of Carl E. and Agnes M. (Hager) Lindroth; m. November 16, 1946, Sylvi Mildred Muhonen. (*See* Muhonen.) They built their house on North Common Road in 1952. He is a veteran of WW II and is employed by the Chairtown Furniture Company of Gardner.
Child:

Karen A. b. September 23, 1949.

LOESCHER

MAX R. LOESCHER b. September 22, 1907, in Fitchburg; s. of Carl and Mary (Muller) Loescher; m. December 15, 1928, Deloise Young, b. October 10, 1907, in Fitchburg, dau. of Florence Young. They live on the former Sprague place in the Narrows. Mrs. Loescher has always been active in the Red Cross. Mr. Loescher is employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

Children:

1. Peter b. August 7, 1929, in Fitchburg; m. Concetta S. Romano of Fitchburg; 3 children.
2. Paul b. January 29, 1938; student at Tufts College.
3. Bruce b. October 24, 1939, in Fitchburg; m. Judith M. Donovan of Gardner; 1 child.

LOMBARD

VINCENT A. LOMBARD b. August 8, 1911, in Westbrook, Maine; s. of James A. and Margaret (Meehan) Lombard; m. December 26, 1939, Mildred E. Symons, b. October 21, 1908, in Winchendon, dau. of Samuel J. and Liley (James) Symons. They came here in 1942, living for a time on West Main Street; moved away; returned in 1953, and now own their place on Bacon Street. He is a veteran of WW II and is employed by Heywood-Wakefield Company in Gardner.

Children:

1. Shirley E. b. December 2, 1946.
2. Dorothy J. b. April 16, 1948.
3. Robert J. b. April 1, 1951.

LOTHROP

JOHN H. LOTHROP b. November 5, 1925, in Fitchburg; s. of Clifford H. and Dorothy P. (Anderson) Lothrop; m. June 19, 1948, Beverly A. Handlin, dau. of Matthew E. and Ruth H. (Burns) Handlin. (*See Handlin.*) He is a veteran of WW II; has been a member of the Planning Board and Town Moderator. He is a lawyer and is associated in business with State Mutual Life Assurance Company of America in the Worcester office. The Lothrops live with her mother, Mrs. Handlin, on Main Street.

Children:

1. Christopher M. b. November 2, 1953.
2. Jonathan D. b. June 21, 1958.

LOUGHLIN

PHILIP HENRY LOUGHLIN b. May 6, 1877, in Worcester, d. July 2, 1938; s. of Thomas and Helen (Roche) Loughlin; m. April 9, 1902, Anna Ware Lewis (d. February 7, 1949), dau. of Crosby and Martha A. (Marshall) Lewis. He was a pioneer automobile salesman. Entering the electrical contracting business, he became

one of the leading contractors in Worcester County. He was a director of the Gardner Electric Light Company and of the Gardner Trust Company; also a vice-president of the Chairtown Co-operative Bank. In Westminster he became a leader in civic and political affairs. He served on the Board of Selectmen, being its chairman at the time of his sudden death. In 1935 he was a member of the School Building Committee; it erected the building that bears his name.

Child:

Philip Henry, Jr. b. April 9, 1903; a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy and Yale University; m. August 27, 1936, Adelaide Jackson of Mayfield, Kentucky; lives in Mayfield; in wholesale clothing business.

Children of Philip H. Loughlin, Jr.:

1. Philip H. 3rd, b. in Kentucky, October 14, 1938.
2. John J. b. in Kentucky, November 8, 1944.

LUCANDER

KUSTAA A. LUCANDER b. July 3, 1901, in Finland; s. of Carl G. Lucander; m. November 6, 1926, Anna A. Kaskinen, b. November 19, 1904, in Finland, dau. of Isaak Kaskinen. They came to Westminster, in 1937. They own and operate an extensive poultry farm on Lanes Road on land formerly owned by Edward Flagg. Mrs. Lucander has been active in Red Cross and also served on the Republican Town Committee.

Child:

Vilho b. February 7, 1934, in New York City; graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with high honors; m. Eleanor June Saari; resides in Ashby; 1 child.

LUOMA

ELMER E. LUOMA b. December 11, 1907, in Gardner; s. of Kalle and Hilma (Sydanmetsa) Luoma; m. December 30, 1933, Linda B. Sakkinen, b. May 6, 1910, in Coburntown, Michigan, dau. of Charles and Anna K. (Kinnunen) Sakkinen. (See Sakkinen.) They

lived first in Gardner, then built their place on Bacon Street. He has been active in town affairs, serving on the Board of Assessors, the School Board, and as a member of the Republican Town Committee.

Child:

Arlene C. b. December 10, 1935, in Gardner; graduated from Fitchburg Teachers College.

LYNDE

EDWARD B. LYNDE (9) b. December 7, 1853, d. February 23, 1933; s. of John (5) and Lucy (Kendall) Lynde; m. January 27, 1875, Florence A. Barron (5) (d. December 4, 1941). (See Barron.) He lived in the Savage block at the corner of Main and Bacon Streets, and ran a meat market in the store now occupied by Nap's TV and Appliance.

Children:

1. Lester E. (13) b. January 7, 1879; m. Frances Wood of Melrose. He was graduated from Connecticut Wesleyan University; became Dean of Phillips Andover Academy. Lives in Andover; 1 child.
2. Grace F. (14) b. November 2, 1883; graduated Wellesley; m. John R. Ballou (d. August 26, 1921 in Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania); now lives in West Newton; 2 children: Phebe Lynde, b. April 14, 1912; graduated Wellesley College; m. Arthur Gregorian; resides in West Newton; 3 children; Constance, b. August 25, 1920, graduated Wellesley College.
3. Elwyn B. (15) b. July 20, 1887; m. Mabel Browning Wilbur; retired; resides in Middleboro; 3 children.

CHESTER E. LYNDE (12) b. April 12, 1873, d. April 17, 1957; youngest son of John and Lucy (Kendall) Lynde; m. (1) May 24, 1893, Minnie Bell Sanborn (d. March 11, 1922 in Fitchburg); m. (2) Lilla Stocker (d. May 12, 1932) of Canaan, New Hampshire; m. (3) December 9, 1937, Gladys G. Knower (15). (See Knower.) About 1930 he built a house on Pleasant Street, where Mrs. Lynde still lives.

Children of Chester and Minnie Lynde:

1. Earle Sanborn b. October 10, 1894; m. Isabelle Andrew of Fitchburg; a retired insurance salesman; 1 child.
2. Clifton Wesley b. May 10, 1902; d. May 28, 1903.

MACALONEY

WILLIAM B. MACALONEY b. March 3, 1895, in Wolfville, Nova Scotia; s. of William M. and Annie (Randal) MacAloney; m. February 16, 1918, Marion G. Parmenter, b. August 27, 1897, in Clinton, dau. of Willard and Cora (Parmenter) Parmenter. He is a veteran of WW I. They came to Westminster in 1937, when they bought the Silas Beaman brick house on Academy Hill, which was built in 1793. (See Heywood's *History*.) Mr. and Mrs. MacAloney have welcomed into their home and cared for at least seventy foster children during their sojourn in Westminster. He is employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

Children:

1. William B., Jr. b. May 29, 1926, in Fitchburg; m. November 30, 1946, Anna Schepens, b. January 18, 1927, in Seaford, New York, dau. of Germaine H. and Mary (Ultsch) Schepens. He is a veteran of WW II. They own their home on Academy Street, formerly that of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Nye.

(Children forward)

2. Raymond C. (adopted) b. January 31, 1932, in Worcester; m. Patricia A. Morse; lives in Georgia; 1 dau.

Children of William B. MacAloney, Jr.:

1. Patricia A. b. August 6, 1948.
2. Brenton W. b. August 21, 1951.

MACCONOLOGUE

JOHN J. MACCONOLOGUE s. of Cornelius and Josephine (Quinlan) MacConologue of Charlestown; m. June 17, 1926, Dorcas Geneva Sawin. (See Sawin.) They live at the corner of Seaver Street. He served in WW I and briefly in WW II. He has been

Chief of the Fire Department since 1936, and is employed by Crocker-Burbank.

Child:

Patricia b. May 10, 1927; m. John Nolan of Gardner; 3 children.

MAKELA

ANDREW J. MAKELA b. April 21, 1894, in Finland; s. of Antti W. and Maria M. (Kolu) Makela; m. (1) January 22, 1920, Hilda Maria Pokki (d. January 17, 1941); m. (2) April 10, 1943, Vieno M. Hakala, b. July 23, 1905, in Finland, dau. of Samuel and Liisa Hakala. He came to Westminster in 1930 and operated a garage on upper Main Street for many years, living in the house he built beside the garage. He sold the garage in 1946. In 1951 he bought the property on Bean Hill, renovating the house on the property for his own use, and later building the other attractive houses in the development on North Common Road. Besides this development he has been active as a contractor and builder here and in surrounding towns.

Child:

Helen b. November 23, 1943.

MAKI

EMIL MAKI b. July 7, 1884, in Isokyro, Finland, d. September 16, 1944; m. February 3, 1912, in Fitchburg, Selma Pera (b. April 18, 1891, in Jurva, Finland, d. December 17, 1957), dau. of Mikko and Mandi (Putikka) Pera. They came to Westminster with their two children in 1927 and for seventeen years conducted a successful poultry farm on what is now the Charles Wuth property on Leominster Street. In September, 1946, Mrs. Maki married Jacob Soini of New Ipswich, returning to Westminster in 1947, where they made their home on Bacon Street. Mr. Soini still lives there.

Children of Emil and Selma (Pera) Maki:

1. Rachel A. b. May 10, 1914, in Fitchburg; m. Teppo Hurme. (*See Hurme.*)

2. Miriam D. b. April 23, 1920, in Fitchburg; m. Toivo J. Keurulainen. (*See Keurulainen.*)

MAKI

JACOB K. MAKI b. January 11, 1914, in Worcester, s. of Jacob E. and Hanna (Johnson) Maki; m. May 3, 1941, Thelma A. Hunt, b. October 11, 1913, in Gardner, dau. of Fred and Fannie (Barker) Hunt. They spent several years in Pennsylvania, coming to Westminster in 1945. Here they lived for several years in the Baptist parsonage, on Main Street, and are now in the house they built on Lovell Street in 1955. Mr. Maki is employed by Rockwood Sprinkler Company of Worcester. Mrs. Maki is a registered nurse, active in Red Cross.

Children:

1. Thomas J. b. February 11, 1943, in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.
2. Karen T. b. May 19, 1946.
3. Mary E. b. January 9, 1953.

MAKI

TOIVO K. MAKI b. 1924 in Fitchburg; s. of Kusti and Anna (Sorvisto) Maki; m. Phyllis F. Moore, b. November 29, 1927, in Rochester, New York, dau. of Harry C. and Ellen E. (Lind) Moore. They came to Westminster in 1957 and bought the house on Bacon Street formerly owned by the Reverend Drew Wyman. Mr. Maki is a veteran of WW II. He is employed by the Independent Lock Company of Fitchburg, and holds a Master's degree of Business Administration from Northeastern University's Graduate Division of the Evening School of Business.

Children:

1. Sherry E. b. October 21, 1947, in Gardner.
2. Sheila A. b. February 21, 1949, in Fitchburg.
3. Sandra J. b. March 3, 1951, in Fitchburg.
4. John T. b. September 11, 1952, in Fitchburg.
5. Nancy E. b. August 26, 1958, in Gardner.

MALENFANT

NORMAN MALENFANT b. April 18, 1922, in Amesbury; s. of Albert and Eugenie (Ouellette) Malenfant; m. May 29, 1943, Margaret Martin, b. February 24, 1926, in Norwich, Connecticut, dau. of Charles and Marie-Rose (Prive) Martin. He is a veteran. They live on Turnpike Road.

Children:

1. Patricia b. April 14, 1944 in Norwich, Connecticut.
2. June b. June 24, 1947.

MANSUR

CHARLES L. MANSUR b. December 25, 1851, d. April 19, 1932; s. of Lorenzo and Charlotte A. (Read) Mansur; m. September 29, 1875, L. Emma Lynde (d. May 1, 1931), dau. of John and Lucy (Kendall) Lynde. A quiet, unassuming man, Mr. Mansur was twice elected to the School Board. He was a painter and paper-hanger. After 1916 he lived in the Dr. Mercer house on Pleasant Street.

Children:

1. Ernest C. b. November 11, 1876, d. August 5, 1928, in Worcester; m. (1) Agnes W. Howe, dau. of Leroy A. and Ella M. (Wood) Howe. (*See Howe.*) They lived with her parents on the Arthur Rice place on Pleasant Street. He served as Selectman for two terms, and his wife also served the town, first as schoolteacher and later as a member of the School Board. She was killed by a bolt of lightning July 3, 1934. Mr. and Mrs. Mansur had separated, and he m. (2) Edith Upham (d. October 7, 1955) dau. of Roger and Clara (Story) Upham of Worcester. No children.
2. C. Herbert b. August 26, 1878, d. July 19, 1942; m. October 18, 1901, Lila O. Buck, b. December 23, 1879, dau. of Thurston and Olive A. (Shepard) Buck of Princeton. He worked in the Cracker Bakery for a time, then lived in Princeton for a number of years, returning to

Westminster and establishing a milk route in Fitchburg in 1914. He served the town on the Finance Board for several years. In 1932 he bought the house on Pleasant Street then known as the Joseph Hager place, now the home of Raymond Scofield, Mrs. Mansur was actively interested in civic affairs, and was a member of the committee which rebuilt the First Congregational Church after the disastrous fire of November 10, 1940. Mrs. Mansur now makes her home in Florida.

(Children forward)

3. Leon E. b. August 25, 1884, d. February 22, 1920; m. July 8, 1914, Maude R. Sharon, dau. of Edward and Emily M. (Merriam) Sharon. They lived on Leominster Street. He was employed in the Cracker Bakery until his death. Mrs. Mansur lives with her son in Springfield.

(Children forward)

Children of C. Herbert Mansur:

1. Clyde Nelson b. February 26, 1903; graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute m. Alice L. Phelps of Fitchburg; vice-president of Simonds Saw and Steel Company; resides in Leominster; 3 children.
2. Paul Buck b. January 21, 1908, in Sterling, d. July 20, 1952; m. (1) June 27, 1931, Priscilla M. Thurston, b. January 8, 1908, dau. of George L. and Adelaide C. Thurston of Leominster. They lived on Bacon Street in the house now owned by Kenneth Strom. He was associated with his father in the milk business, and in the operation of the Dairy Bar on Main Street. Mrs. Priscilla Mansur served on the School Board, and was a Music Supervisor in the Westminster Schools. She now lives in Leominster with her daughter. Mr. Mansur m. (2) Henrietta Swalina of Gardner in February, 1945.

(Children forward)

3. Richard Lynde b. November 8, 1913; graduate of Norwich University; m. Elizabeth Coe Beam of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania; works for McGraw Edison Company, Revere, Mass.; resides in Reading; 2 children.

Children of Leon E. Mansur:

1. Ralph Edward b. February 22, 1915.
2. Carl Harrison b. March 24, 1917; m. Theresa Pageau of Saco, Maine; resides in Saco; veteran of WW II.
3. Roy G. b. August 27, 1919; m. Doris Duxbury; resides in Springfield; veteran of WW II.

Children of Paul and Priscilla Mansur:

1. Thurston Buck b. February 11, 1933, d. March 14, 1950.
2. Paula Jane b. February 3, 1937; graduate of Keene, New Hampshire, Teachers College.

Child of Paul and Henrietta Mansur:

3. Elizabeth Joanna b. November 8, 1945.

MARBLE

WALTER J. MARBLE b. August 4, 1929, in Sherman Mills, Maine; s. of Harold and Dorothy (Howard) Marble; m. February 17, 1950, Lili Tuomi, dau. of Axel and Ida (Ilves) Tuomi. (See Tuomi.) He is associated with his father-in-law in the poultry business, and they make their home on Davis Road.

Children:

1. Patricia A. b. August 21, 1950.
2. Sandra L. b. December 10, 1951.

MARIEN

PHILIP J. MARIEN b. July 21, 1907, in Fitchburg; s. of Gonzague and Exilda (Sylvester) Marien; m. September 7, 1936, Berthine Lecuyer, b. October 1, 1918, in Fitchburg, dau. of Arthur and Delina (Bedard) Lecuyer. They came to Westminster in 1936 and live in Leino Park.

Children:

1. Pauline Y. b. March 26, 1939.
2. Robert L. b. December 27, 1942.
3. Leo E. b. July 29, 1947.
4. Francis P. b. January 24, 1950.

MARTEL

RAYMOND J. MARTEL b. February 10, 1928, in Gardner; s. of Edmond E. and Corinne A. (Boucher) Martel; m. April 30, 1949, Audrey L. Page, dau. of Carl B. and Priscilla L. (Surrey) Page. (See Page.) He is a veteran of WW II. They own their home on Ellis Road. He is employed in Washington, D. C.

Children:

1. Jeffrey R. b. May 16, 1955.
2. Gregory T. b. October 9, 1957.

MARYSZ

JOHN MARYSZ b. September 23, 1917, in Windsor Locks, Connecticut; s. of George and Anna (Hruskewicz) Marysz; m. July 4, 1942, Stacy A. Pawlowicz, b. December 7, 1915, in Gardner, dau. of Stanley and Antoinette (Szajback) Pawlowicz. He is a veteran of WW II. They moved to Westminster in January, 1946, when they bought the A. W. Nye grocery store on Main Street, in years past known as "Bruce's Store" and "Fenno's Store." He has built up a flourishing business, operating a modern supermarket.

Child:

- Philip b. September 24, 1947.

MASON

WILLIAM J. MASON b. February 10, 1885, in Charlestown, Mass.; d. May 28, 1945; s. of James H. and Beatrice (Comerford) Mason; m. June 29, 1925, Ellen E. Harrington. (See Harrington.) They lived in New York City and in Worcester, coming to Westminster in 1941. Mr. Mason was a printer. Mrs. Mason and her son Benjamin live on Knower Road.

Children:

1. William J., Jr. b. March 12, 1926, in New York City, d. July 27, 1943.

2. Robert C. b. July 15, 1927, in Gardner; m. November 1, 1947, Jane Woodward. (*See Woodward.*) They live on the former Bassett Farm on Old Princeton Road. He is a veteran of WW II; he works as a printer at Simplex Time Recorder Company in Gardner. Mrs. Mason is a registered nurse.

(*Children forward*)

3. Benjamin R. b. November 7, 1928; unmarried.

Children of Robert Mason:

1. Robert C., Jr. b. August 17, 1949.
2. Sally Jo b. April 23, 1951.
3. Susan E. b. June 25, 1955.
4. Daniel J. b. November 11, 1957.

MAYRANEN

WILHO W. MAYRANEN b. June 3, 1920; s. of Wilho W. and Hilma (Silta) Mayranen; m. September 5, 1942, Terttu E. Inki, b. December 4, 1922, in Monson, Maine, dau. of Lauri and Fanny (Savela) Inki. He is a veteran of WW II; works for Fitchburg Engineering Corporation in Fitchburg. They live on North Common Road.

Children:

1. Wilho W. b. August 6, 1944, in Fitchburg.
2. Eric L. b. April 25, 1949.
3. Valerie B. b. May 4, 1951.

McADAMS

LEON H. McADAMS, JR. b. September 8, 1916, in Deering, New Hampshire; s. of Leon H. and Maude A. (Hilliard) McAdams; m. August 4, 1940, Geneva A. Rich, b. March 7, 1918, in West Windsor, Vermont, dau. of Wendell B. and Nellie F. (Billings) Rich. He is a brick mason. They came to Westminster in 1940 and live on Minott Road on the former Charles Dike place.

Children:

1. Roger E. b. December 12 1941; employed by Simplex Time Recorder Company in Gardner.
2. Sandra L. b. May 18, 1945.

McALLESTER

WILLIAM C. McALLESTER b. June 19, 1848, in Essex County, New York, d. December 5, 1926; s. of Edwin McAllester; m. 1873, Angela M. Brownson (d. March 8, 1920) of Elizabethtown, New York. He was graduated from Madison University (now Colgate). He held pastorates in Moriah, Morrisonville and Plattsburgh, New York, Manchester, New Hampshire, and Randolph and in Waverly, before coming to Westminster in 1909. He retired in 1920. They spent their last years in Westminster on Pleasant Street, occupying the present Homer Vine house. He was interested in all projects of civic interest and was a Trustee of the Westminster Public Library for some years.

Children:

1. Lillian A. b. October 28, 1874, d. February 12, 1959; graduate of Vassar College; unmarried; retired teacher of French; trustee of the Westminster Public Library.
2. Ralph b. September 15, 1877, d. July 31, 1952; graduate of Harvard College; m. Maude Park (d. April 3, 1949); 4 children.
3. Grace b. January 26, 1886; graduate of Vassar College; m. Russell Goodwin (d. June 5, 1941); resides in Westwood; 2 children.

McGEE

JAMES McGEE (d. March 25, 1928) came to Westminster in 1909; m. Sarah Withington, b. August 30, 1876, in Boxboro, dau. of Ebenezer and Mary E. (Tenney) Withington. He was a janitor in the public schools and worked at Gardner State Hospital. They built their home on Dawley Road, where Mrs. McGee

still lives with her sister and brother, Ethel and Arthur Withington.

Child:

Maude b. May 1, 1912; graduate of Fitchburg Teachers College; m. (1) Guy Ralph (d. July 4, 1952), m. (2) Alex Good; lives in Rowley; is a teacher.

McINTIRE

EDWARD P. McINTIRE b. November 21, 1915, in Fitchburg; s. of Ralph W. and Julia (Hanney) McIntire; m. August 10, 1940, Martha A. Ameer, b. August 30, 1916, in Braintree, Vermont, dau. of Wesley C. and Caroline (Plumpton) Ameer. In 1957 Mr. McIntire built his present house on Bean Porridge Hill Road, on land owned by the McIntire family for six generations—the first of the family in Westminster being David (1), who bought the land of his brother-in-law, Amos Sawyer. (See Heywood's *History*.)

Children:

1. Edward A. b. July 13, 1944, in Fitchburg.
2. Ralph W. b. September 8, 1947, in Fitchburg.

McKINNON

JOHN J. McKINNON b. May 30, 1927, in Cambridge; s. of James P. and Mary E. (Marriner) McKinnon; m. August 26, 1950, Alice M. Bourgeois, b. April 17, 1929 in Leominster, dau. of Joseph H. and Flora M. (Tuttle) Bourgeois. They came to Westminster in 1956 and make their home in Lakewood Park. He has been a member of the Planning Board; is Town Engineer of Shrewsbury.

Child:

John A. b. June 8, 1958.

MEDLIN

RALPH E. MEDLIN b. July 6, 1920, in Judsonia, Arkansas; s. of Egan E. and Flora (Ferren) Medlin; m. June 24, 1950, Grace

Merriam, dau. of Harold D. and Frances E. (Jenkins) Merriam. (See Merriam.) He is a veteran of WW II. They live on South Street and own the former Wiley place.

Child:

Harold E. b. April 2, 1951.

MERCER

JOHN C. MERCER b. April 22, 1903, in Tacoma, Ohio; s. of Frank and Rose (Lawery) Mercer; m. 1931 Beatrice Lane, b. October 5, 1909, in Fitchburg, dau. of Frederic and Amy (Lindsley) Lane. They came to Westminster from Fitchburg in 1947, living first on Town Farm Road, buying in 1951 the house on Pleasant Street where they now live. Dr. Mercer is an optometrist in Fitchburg. He was one of the founders of the Westminster Country Club.

Children:

1. Nancy L. b. April 6, 1933; m. Richard Welch; lives in Hudson, New Hampshire; 2 children.
2. Maryalice b. February 14, 1935; m. Ronald Jeffries; lives in Lynchburg, Virginia; 2 children.
3. David L. b. July 23, 1938.
4. Ruth B. b. December 23, 1942.

MERRIAM

The two branches of the Merriam family in Westminster were descended from brothers who settled here early in the eighteenth century: SAMUEL (70) and THOMAS MERRIAM (2).

JOEL MERRIAM (99) was the great-grandson of SAMUEL (70), brother of THOMAS (2). Samuel came to town in 1769. Joel Merriam m. Elmina Perkins.

Children:

1. Evelina (115) b. October 2, 1843, d. October 16, 1896; m. W. O. Foskett; 4 children.
2. Emma Elmina (117) b. August 1, 1850, d. January 11, 1934; m. Frank M. Urban; resided in Westminster and Dorchester; 2 children.

3. Joel Hervey (118) b. July 3, 1852, d. 1934; m. (1) Ella M. Persons; m. (2) Anna P. Mansfield; 2 children; resided in Westminster and the West.
4. Frank A. (119) b. September 5, 1855, d. August 12, 1930; m. (1) Jennie Merriam and (2) Ida E. Simonds (d. May 2, 1957). From 1886 until his death he was a Deacon of the First Baptist Church. Mrs. Merriam was the organist in that church for sixty years. She was also a Library Trustee for many years.
(*Children forward*)
5. Sarah E. (120) b. September 8, 1857, d. 1943 in Manchester, New Hampshire; m. Fred B. Bolton; resided in Orange; 1 child.
6. Cora E. (121) b. May 27, 1863; graduate of New England Conservatory of Music; m. the Reverend Henry A. MacDonald, President of West Kentucky College in Mayfield, Kentucky; lives in Kentucky; 2 children.

Children of Frank A. and Jennie E. Merriam:

1. Frank E. (135) b. May 6, 1878, d. March 13, 1956; m. Nellie F. Wright of Littleton; resided in Fitchburg. 1 daughter. In 1943 he retired after 39 years as Register Clerk at the Fitchburg Post Office.
2. George A. (136) b. August 21, 1882; m. Elizabeth Greer of Worcester; retired; resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; no children.
3. Robert J. (137) b. August 29, 1885; unmarried; formerly employed at Gardner State Hospital; retired.

Children of Frank A. and Ida E. Merriam:

4. Charles S. b. June 9, 1894; m. Martha Stone of Wells-ville, New York; resides in Longmeadow; 2 children.
5. Winfred E. b. December 1, 1895; m. Julia S. Butler of Syracuse, New York; resides in Elliott City, Maryland; 1 son.
6. Spenser H. b. January 6, 1898; graduate of Syracuse University; m. Martha Taylor of Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. He teaches at Peddie Boys' School in Hightstown, New Jersey. No children.
7. Leon A. b. August 18, 1899, d. August 12, 1900.

ELI H. MERRIAM (51) b. June 4, 1848, d. November 9, 1930, s. of Caleb (34) and Abbie (Parker) Merriam, was the great-

great-grandson of THOMAS (2) who came here in 1751. He m. September 25, 1873, Abbie L. Davis (d. July 14, 1935) of Fitchburg.

Children:

1. Mabel C. (63) b. June 5, 1875, d. January 20, 1958; m. Fred J. Ray. (*See Ray.*) 1 child.
2. Cora A. (64) b. July 3, 1877, d. December 18, 1957; m. (1) George E. Kimball of Northfield, New Hampshire; m. (2) Henry Stanbridge of South Ashburnham.
3. Grace E. (65) b. June 24, 1879; unmarried.
4. Harold D. (66) b. July 30, 1882, d. November 29, 1956; m. December 14, 1919, Emma F. Jenkins of Oaklawn, Rhode Island, dau. of Charles and Annie M. (Chute) Jenkins (d. September 3, 1953). They lived near the site of the old Westminster Depot, on Route 2A. With his brother he was first associated with their father in the grain and lumber business, and after their father's death they, together with their sister Grace, continued that business until war closed it in 1943. He and his wife both held public office, he being elected to the Board of Selectmen and she to the School Board.

(Children forward)

5. Charles S. (67) b. January 19, 1885, d. March 15, 1904.
6. Arthur E. (68) b. April 18, 1886; m. October 27, 1909, Lila M. Russell, dau. of Elmer Warren and Etta E. (Harding) Russell of South Ashburnham. He too has always lived near the site of the old Westminster Depot.

(Children forward)

7. Helen F. b. November 6, 1892; graduate of Wellesley College; teacher in Fitchburg High School; unmarried.

Children of Harold D. Merriam:

1. Charlotte b. February 28, 1921; m. Olen V. Green; graduate of Fitchburg Teachers College; veteran of WW II; lives So. Athol; 5 children.
2. Anne Lydia b. September 10, 1924; a registered nurse; veteran of WW II; employed at Gardner State Hospital.

3. Grace b. June 24, 1928; m. Ralph E. Medlin. (*See Medlin.*)

Children of Arthur E. Merriam:

1. Charles Russell b. June 4, 1912; veteran of WW II; unmarried.
2. Donald Eli b. October 23, 1915, d. December 2, 1915.
3. Arthur Elmore b. June 7, 1921; m. October 16, 1948, Nicolina Francoisi, b. May 10, 1925, in Leominster, dau. of Philip and Maria Francoisi. He is a veteran of WW II. They lived for a time in Leominster, coming to Westminster in 1948, when they purchased a home on the Fitchburg State Road. He is employed by Foster Grant Company of Leominster.

(Children forward)

4. Jean b. May 21, 1924; graduate of Simmons College; m. Alfred A. Arterton; lives in Whitinsville; 3 children.

Children of Arthur Elmore Merriam:

1. Philip A. b. October 31, 1949, in Fitchburg.
2. Donald E. b. December 11, 1954, in Fitchburg.

MILES

Mr. Heywood, in his *History*, dealt so fully with the Miles family, which once held a most prominent position in the town but has now drifted away, that there is little left to record.

DANIEL MILES (66) and his wife Mary (Curtis) had 3 children who remained here:

1. Daniel C. (67) b. June 1, 1827, d. February 22, 1912; m. Lucy Puffer; 5 children.
2. Ann Maria (69) b. April 15, 1836, d. November 27, 1917; m. Samuel Sprague; 4 children.
3. Nelson A. (70) b. August 6, 1839, d. May 15, 1925; m. Mary Sherman; 2 children. Lieutenant General, United States Army, retired. (*See Chapter 12.*)

MILLER

DEACON JOSEPH MILLER (1) The ancestor of the family of that name in Westminster. He was the third settler here, and raised a

large family. He was an active and influential citizen, and his habit of keeping and preserving complete records of all transactions he was connected with made possible the excellent accounts of the town's first fifty years, used by Heywood in his *History*.

J. HERVEY MILLER (117) b. February 11, 1832, d. November 2, 1918; s. of Jonas (62) and Susan (Bond) Miller, lived in the house next to the First Congregational Church, now owned by Col. Chester E. Sargent. His second wife, Lizzie D. (Rice), d. May 25, 1894.

(*Children forward*)

EDWARD P. MILLER (118) (d. October 8, 1903) was a brother of J. Hervey. His widow, Mandana (Ball) d. October 3, 1928. Only one of their children remained in Westminster.

(*Child forward*)

Children of J. Hervey Miller:

1. Frank E. (133) b. October 10, 1856, d. August 9, 1942, and his wife Ida (Peck) (d. October 22, 1943) lived on the Raymond Morse place on Leominster Street. He was a faithful employee of the Dawley Cracker Bakery, working there when he was past eighty.

(*Children forward*)

2. Cyrus T. (136) b. September 11, 1867, d. November 9, 1938, and his wife, Lillian C. (Lamb) (d. June 1, 1914) lived in the Towle place on Bacon Street. He was associated with his brothers in business at the Brick Store. A respected citizen, he held the office of Assessor, Library Trustee, Tax Collector and member of the Board of Public Welfare, as well as other positions of responsibility.
3. George H. (137) b. September 6, 1868, d. January 7, 1941, in Lawrence; m. Cora V. Fellows.
4. Edward R. (138) b. November 9, 1871, d. January 11, 1947; m. June 3, 1893, Laura Mabel Eaton. (*See Eaton.*) They lived in the Clark house adjoining the Post Office, and this was the home in which they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1943. He ran a stagecoach for both passengers and mail from the center of town to the Depot. For many years with his brother Cyrus he conducted the Brick Store on Main Street, known as Miller Brothers. He served the town as Selectman and was always interested in

whatever promoted the welfare of the town. Mrs. Miller was secretary of the Westminster Historical Society for many years. She sold her home on Main Street in 1958 and now lives in Gardner.

5. Harry W. (139) b. November 1, 1873, d. November 9, 1949; m. June 4, 1894 Maud Isabel Hayward of Westminster. They lived for many years in the Walter Wilcox house on upper Main Street. He was a chairmaker. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1944, Harry being the fourth of five sons of J. Hervey Miller who reached this milestone. Mrs. Miller d. October 9, 1957.

(Children forward)

Child of Edward P. Miller:

1. Louis S. b. August 25, 1860, d. April 11, 1949; m. December 24, 1891, Mary Jane Holden (d. June 25, 1940). (See Holden.) He served as an assessor for twenty years. He was a butcher and lived on Main Street, where his two sons now reside.

(Children forward)

Children of Frank E. Miller:

1. Hervey R. b. July 16, 1885, in Owlshead, Maine, d. February 17, 1953; m. Elizabeth Whelan; resided in Ashburnham; 3 children.
2. Alfreda M. b. September 21, 1888; m. Fred Don Dying of Montclair, New Jersey; resides Round Pond, Maine; 1 child.
3. Mary L. b. April 26, 1890; m. Charles W. Field of Easley, South Carolina; resides Worcester; 2 children.

Child of Cyrus T. Miller:

1. William Stephen b. December 12, 1894, d. September 8, 1918, in service in France. The American Legion Post in Westminster is named for him.

Children of Harry W. Miller:

1. Guy Lewis b. September 14, 1895; m. Cora D. French (See French.) He is a veteran of WW I; resides in Gardner; 4 children.
2. Henry Hayward b. January 25, 1898; graduate of Fitchburg Normal School; m. Rena Rice. (See Rice.) Vet-

eran of WW I; resides Manchester, Connecticut; 3 children.

Children of Louis S. Miller:

1. Gerald Holden b. December 25, 1897; unmarried; an electrician, resides with his brother.
2. Adelbert Payson b. June 13, 1905; m. Marjorie E. Smith; divorced; veteran of WW II.

MILLER

FRANK A. MILLER b. February 5, 1857, in Decatur, Wisconsin, d. October 29, 1937; s. of George (101) and Clarissa (Gill) Miller. He was descended from Deacon Joseph Miller (*see above*) but of another branch. He removed to his father's native Westminster and m. November 17, 1885, Mary Ellen Marsh (d. December 5, 1951 in Springfield at the home of her daughter), dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth (Feeley) Marsh. Mr. Miller was a chair-maker. He was also a member of the Board of Registrars for forty-eight years. Mrs. Miller was interested in all civic activities. She was a president of the Westminster Historical Society. They lived on Bacon Street opposite the Town Hall.

Children:

1. Walter A. b. September 21, 1888; m. Edith Jaycox of Connecticut; veteran of WW I; lives in Vermont; 2 children.
2. Grace E. b. March 5, 1891; graduate of Fitchburg Normal School, teacher in Springfield; unmarried.

MINKKINEN

OTTO MINKKINEN b. January 26, 1890, in Pieksamaki, Finland; s. of Davidi and Anna M. (Ylonen) Minkkinen; m. July 15, 1917, (1) Amanda T. Minkkinen (b. October 19, 1891 in Pieksamaki, Finland, d. July 15, 1956); November 27, 1958 m. (2) Olka H. Suokko of Templeton. Mr. Minkkinen brought his family to this country in 1921, coming to Westminster in 1941, when he bought a farm on Sargent Road.

Children of Otto and Amanda Minkkinen:

1. Bertha M. b. April 11, 1918, in Pieksamaki, Finland; m. Henry Marjomaa; lives West Townsend; 4 children.
2. George W. b. June 2, 1920, in Pieksamaki, Finland; m. Myra V. Makela; veteran of WW II; lives West Fitchburg; 4 children.

MINOTT

This family was founded by Jonathan Minott (1), a Revolutionary soldier who came here shortly after his marriage in 1777. He settled in the western corner of the township, known to many as the Minott District. The property was long owned by his descendants.

FREDERICK H. MINOTT (31) b. December 5, 1832, d. April 2, 1885; s. of John (9) and Mary (Hardy) Minott; m. (1) Mary A. Roberts d. August 18, 1857; m. (2) Mary A. Maynard Grimes d. July 10, 1873; m. (3) Emily H. Perkins d. December 24, 1922.

(Children forward)

ALBERT MINOTT (34) b. July 31, 1832, d. September 26, 1901; s. of Luke (10) and Catherine (Fowle); m. Martha Ellen (Carr) (d. January 1, 1909). They lived on the Old Ashburnham Road.

(Children forward)

Children of Frederick H. and Mary A. (Grimes) Minott:

1. Carrie L. (40) b. July 9, 1864, d. April 27, 1952; unmarried; she was a schoolteacher.
2. John (41) b. January 18, 1866, d. December 4, 1936; m. April 18, 1901, Flora I. Henderson, dau. of George W. and Abbie (Houghton) Henderson. They lived in Westminster a short time, then Gardner. Mrs. Minott lives with her daughter.

(Child forward)

3. Ella (43) b. August 9, 1869, d. February 2, 1959; m. Charles Barber of Medford; resided Redlands, California; 1 child.
4. Mary Alice (44) b. August 23, 1871, d. June 19, 1936; unmarried.

5. Maggie E. (45) b. June 25, 1873, d. November 28, 1895; unmarried.

Children of Albert and Martha Minott:

1. Charles W. (47) b. April 1, 1859, d. November 28, 1925; graduate of Mass. Agricultural College; m. Fannie E. Estey (d. January 26, 1949).
2. Wallace A. (48) b. February 22, 1868, d. August 14, 1931, in Gardner; m. Mary E. Swett of Ashburnham; lived in Gardner.
3. Leon A. (49) b. October 4, 1878; m. Emma Joslin and Emma Stevenson; 2 children; lives in Milton.

Child of John and Flora Minott:

1. Mary Idell b. May 10, 1902; graduate of Simmons College; m. George Burch; 1 child; lives in Gardner; teacher of Home Economics in Westminster School System.

MOORE

THE REVEREND GEORGE F. MOORE b. January 25, 1929, in Barss Corner, Nova Scotia; s. of Dennis R. and Dorothy (Backhouse) Moore; m. July 26, 1952, Beulah DeLong, b. October 7, 1930, in Worcester, dau. of Laurie W. and Emily G. (Connolly) DeLong. The Reverend George Moore came to Westminster in 1958, as pastor of the First Baptist Church. He is a graduate of Gordon College and Gordon Divinity School; Mrs. Moore is a registered graduate nurse.

Children:

1. David R. b. June 16, 1953, in Worcester.
2. Robert W. b. May 14, 1956, in Worcester.

MORSE

HARRY RAYMOND MORSE b. January 31, 1909, in Fitchburg; s. of Herbert Raymond and Inez L. (Austin) Morse; m. February 20, 1936, Barbara W. Howard, dau. of Nathan D. and Celina D.

(Reed) Howard. (*See* Howard.) They own the Frank Miller home on Leominster Street. Mr. Morse is employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

Children:

1. Harry R., Jr. b. December 3, 1936; unmarried; lives in Whitman.
2. Henry H. b. November 23, 1937; unmarried; lives at home.

MORSE

PIERCE C. MORSE b. June 10, 1892, in West Bridgewater; s. of Frederick and Almanetta (Case) Morse; m. February 10, 1928, Freda Northrup, b. February 28, 1901, Kingston, Canada, dau. of Walter W. and Winnie B. (Flewelling) Northrup. They came to Westminster in 1941 and lived in the house built by Miss Sarah Wyman on the State Road, which they later bought. Mr. Morse worked as an engineer for the State Department of Public Works and just previous to his retirement was employed at the Gardner State Hospital. He is a veteran of WW I.

Children:

1. Frederick W. b. September 19, 1931, in Gardner; m. Margaret Yeager; in United States Regular Army; 3 children.
2. Patricia A. b. March 17, 1935, in Gardner; m. Raymond MacAloney; lives in Cartersville, Georgia; 1 child.

MORSE

ROBERT J. MORSE b. August 3, 1920, in Gardner; s. of Carl A. and Lucy M. (Lashua) Morse; m. June 8, 1946, Barbara J. Hill, b. August 24, 1926, in Gardner, dau. of Clifton H. and Eva (Laprade) Hill. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on Main Street.

Children:

1. Janice B. b. January 15, 1947, in Gardner.
2. Ronald L. b. September 23, 1950, in Gardner.

MOSSMAN

ALVARO E. MOSSMAN, M.D. (69) b. January 13, 1857, d. December 19, 1913; m. Mary A. Eacott, b. December 27, 1853, d. August 26, 1915. He came to Westminster from Lowell in 1884, and from 1886 until his death was the only practicing physician in town. Few men who have lived here have been more respected, more trusted, or more beloved than he. He was not only a physician but a public-spirited citizen, with his community's improvement as well as the well-being of its citizens at heart.

Children:

1. Arthur Benjamin b. April 9, 1879 in Lowell, d. March 1950; graduate of Williams College; m. Myrta Bixby of Missouri; lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma; a lawyer. His work was chiefly with the Indians, to protect their property, and with oil companies.
2. Nettie Ruth b. November 29, 1880, in Lowell; graduate of Fitchburg Normal School; m. Louis D. Rice of Somerville. (*See Rice.*)
3. Ada Amelia b. August 20, 1882 in Lowell, d. January 18, 1950. Graduate of New England Conservatory of Music; m. Walter P. Bricher of Gardner, February 5, 1926; lived in Gardner. She taught music and for a number of years was organist at the First Congregational Church.
4. Willard (70) b. February 26, 1885, d. July 6, 1958; graduate of Worcester Academy and Bryant and Stratton; m. Golden Scoggins; lived in Maryland; no children.
5. Lois (71) b. June 18, 1887; graduate of Wellesley College; m. Harry Norton. Howard. (*See Howard.*) She taught in Westminster schools before and after marriage and for five years in the art department of Fitchburg Normal School.
6. George b. November 16, 1889, d. February 7, 1937; m. Esther Jane Curtis (d. November 6, 1956). (*See Curtis.*) Premedical course at Harvard; graduate of University of Vermont. He practiced medicine in Westminster both before and after his medical service overseas as a Captain in WW I. He was a fellow of the American College of

Surgeons, at that time the youngest member ever elected.
3 children.

MUHONEN

EINAR MUHONEN b. December 4, 1892, d. January 6, 1929; m. May 10, 1914, in Fitchburg, Helmi Lydia Helala, b. January 17, 1893, in Ishpeming, Michigan, dau. of Jonas and Liinu (Jarvela) Helala. They came to Westminster in 1917 and lived on a farm near Wachusett Lake until the death of Mr. Muhonen, when Mrs. Muhonen bought the Ida Delva place on Bacon Street. March 8, 1952, Mrs. Muhonen m. John Soini. (*See Soini.*)

Children of Einar and Helmi Muhonen:

1. Harold Albin b. December 30, 1915, in Fitchburg; m. (1) Lillian Buckman; (2) Jean Chalmers; lives in Hollywood, California. Veteran of WW II.
2. Einar Edwin b. November 23, 1920; m. Marjorie Miller; lives in Redondo Beach, California. Veteran of WW II.

(Children forward)

3. Sylvi Mildred b. April 5, 1923; m. Leonard Lindroth. (*See Lindroth.*)

Children of Einar Edwin Muhonen:

1. Craig Allan b. October 28, 1946.
2. Bruce E. b. August 19, 1948.
3. Kathyann b. February 6, 1951, in Inglewood, California.

MURDOCK

FRANK R. MURDOCK, JR. b. December 24, 1867, in Cambridge, Mass., d. June 27, 1929; s. of Frank R. and Frances (Norwood) Murdock; m. June 1, 1898, Alma Johnstone, b. June 20, 1871, in Chatham, N. B., Canada, dau. of David and Hester (Johnston) Johnstone. He moved to Westminster from Cambridge with his family about 1900, buying property on Route 140. He was a prosperous farmer. After his death Mrs. Murdock continued to

live in Westminster until 1940, when she went to live with a daughter in Staten Island, New York.

Children:

1. Alma Frances b. July 7, 1899, in Cambridge.
2. Warren Johnstone b. May 18, 1903; m. October 19, 1935, Laura W. Williams, b. January 8, 1908, in Chicopee Falls, dau. of John E. and Hattie O. (Read) Williams. They live on his father's farm on Route 140. He works for Dawley and Son in the Cracker Bakery. Mrs. Murdock is a registered nurse.

(Child forward)

3. Marion Richardson b. June 2, 1908; m. F. Morton Higham; lives in Adams; 1 child.
4. Louise Norwood b. July 27, 1911; m. Frank H. Wilder; lives in Pittsfield; 2 children.

Child of Warren Murdock (2 sons died in infancy):

1. Jean E. b. February 17, 1938; attended New England Conservatory and Stevens Business College; employed in Fitchburg.

NAPPILA

ERNEST M. NAPPILA b. September 4, 1910, in Finland; s. of Edward and Edith (Antilla) Nappila; m. August 30, 1936, Tyne Miriam Aho, b. May 3, 1918, in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, dau. of Rev. Emanuel P. and Hilda (Linna) Aho. Mr. Nappila came to this country with his parents in 1913, and after living in several other places, settled in Westminster in 1918, on a farm at North Common. In 1951 Ernest and Miriam Nappila built their place on Battles Road, and in 1952 opened an appliance store on Bacon Street, where they operate a prosperous business in electrical appliances, giving prompt and courteous service to a growing clientele. They have no children.

NEWCOMBE

DOUGLAS P. NEWCOMBE b. April 13, 1918, in Fitchburg; s. of Arthur and Mary (Anderson) Newcombe; m. June 29, 1939, Phyl-

lis Wood, b. April 1, 1920, in Fitchburg, dau. of Chester and Hazel (Young) Wood. They settled in Westminster, where they built their home on Leominster Street. He is a veteran of WW II. Mr. Newcombe worked for a number of years for Crocker-Burbank; but he is currently a member of Orton Corporation of Fitchburg. He served on the committee which established the Water District of the town, as Water Commissioner, and on the School Building Committee.

Children:

1. Stephen A. b. August 23, 1946.
2. Kathy L. b. March 6, 1948.
3. Jody C. b. September 19, 1950.
4. Cynthia b. July 3, 1957.

NEWTON

FAY H. NEWTON b. January 12, 1902, in New Salem; s. of William L. and Ola A. (Hemenway) Newton; m. September 5, 1923, Rieta B. Sawtell, b. November 6, 1901, in New Salem, dau. of Harrie E. and Hattie L. (Ballard) Sawtell. They lived in New Salem and Gardner before coming to Westminster in 1954, making their home on Lovell Street. He is employed by the Worcester County Electric Company in Gardner.

Children (all born before coming to Westminster):

1. Thelma S. b. July 7, 1924, in New Salem; m. Tauno A. Neuvonen; lives in Ashburnham.
2. } Twin sons b. and d. March 22, 1927, in New Salem.
3. }
4. Avery E. b. May 8, 1929, in New Salem; m. Elizabeth A. Hodgman; lives in Gardner; 2 children.
5. Lyle F. b. July 5, 1931, in Gardner; m. Janette P. Laundry; lives in Winchendon; 3 children.
6. Merl D. b. November 20, 1933, in Gardner; m. Theresa M. Desroches; lives in Gardner; 5 children.
7. Wayne O. b. May 3, 1936, in Gardner; United States Army, serving in Germany.

NICHOLS

EDMOND NICHOLS (28) b. August 26, 1801, in Gardner; s. of David and Rachel (Howard) Nichols; m. in 1823 Mary Derby, b. January 17, 1804, dau. of Ezra and Ruth (Puffer) Derby. They settled in Westminster and were the parents of eleven children, of whom four sons carried on the name in Westminster.

Children:

1. Frederic (30) b. October 30, 1825, d. May 19, 1909; m. Aurelia Bemis (Fisher; d. October 24, 1923). They always lived in Westminster.

(Children forward)

2. Francis (32) b. November 11, 1829, d. July 23, 1907; m. Sophia Bemis; (d. 1890).

(Children forward)

3. Charles (38) b. July 4, 1847, d. December 19, 1917; m. Alice A. Brown December 10, 1871 (d. November 24, 1901). They removed to Gardner about 1895.

(Children forward)

4. Marcus M. (39) b. June 27, 1849, d. September 2, 1915; m. Abbie I. Reed December 10, 1871 (d. December 27, 1909). They removed to Leominster.

(Children forward)

Children of Frederic Nichols:

1. Alice S. (41) b. November 2, 1874, d. June 9, 1894; unmarried.
2. Ruth B. (42) b. April 18, 1877, d. March 7, 1891.
3. Charles G. (43) b. February 16, 1883, d. October 26, 1908.

Children of Francis Nichols:

1. Frank A. (44) b. April 25, 1867, d. September 29, 1948; m. Carrie Nickerson; lived in Gardner; 2 children.
2. Edmund (46) b. June 8, 1871, died in infancy.
3. Edith C. (47) b. June 8, 1871; m. William R. Stanbridge. (*See Stanbridge.*)

Children of Charles Nichols:

1. Mary A. (48) b. August 26, 1873; m. Frank W. Fenno. (See Fenno.)
2. Abbie B. (49) b. December 26, 1875; m. Carl A. Raymond. (See Raymond.)
3. Louis C. (50) b. December 28, 1877, d. November 3, 1936, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; m. Marguerite Whitaker of Cincinnati, Ohio; 1 child.
4. Edmund L. (52) b. February 11, 1890; m. Maud Carlton of Gardner; lives in Gardner; 3 children.

Children of Marcus M. Nichols:

1. Grace R. (53) b. October 3, 1872; m. October 12, 1898, W. S. Holden. (See Holden.)
2. Maud M. (54) b. October 1, 1874, d. December 17, 1951; unmarried.
3. Belle B. (55) b. July 10, 1877; m. G. H. White of Fitchburg. (He died June 25, 1951.)
4. Edmund Carl (56) b. September 6, 1879; m. Mary ——. (Deceased.)
5. Blanche D. (57) b. December 5, 1881, d. August 8, 1954; m. John B. Fellows of Fitchburg; lived in Fitchburg; 7 children.
6. Clare G. (58) b. February 4, 1884; m. Edward C. Brooks of Gardner; lives in Gardner; 5 children.
7. Reine C. (59) b. September 19, 1886; m. (1) Harold Gardner (d. March 25, 1950); lived in Worcester; m. (2) Alden Gates.

NIEMI

EUGENE E. NIEMI b. September 9, 1920 in Fitchburg; s. of Kasper H. and Hilma (Koski) Niemi; m. December 7, 1946, Sylvia J. Joseph, b. August 13, 1923, in Brooklyn, New York, dau. of Alex and Laiifi Joseph. He is a veteran of WW II. After the war he lived in Florida for ten years, returning to Westminster with his family in 1953, and opening an insurance brokerage office. They lived on his father's farm for a time and in 1957 he moved to the property on Main Street formerly owned by Foster Beach.

(Children forward)

WAINO W. NIEMI b. October 9, 1928 in Fitchburg, brother of Eugene; m. July 19, 1952, Roxcine M. Andreasson, b. June 26, 1934, in Fitchburg, dau. of Selfred S. and Dorothy T. (Packard) Andreasson. He is a veteran of the Korean conflict. They live on Bolton Road on the farm formerly owned by his father.

(Children forward)

Children of Eugene E. Niemi:

1. Michaelene A. b. October 14, 1947, in Jacksonville, Florida.
2. Jean M. b. August 10, 1950, in Jacksonville, Florida.
3. Martin C. b. November 23, 1951, in Jacksonville, Florida.
4. Judy M. b. January 10, 1954, in Westminster.

Children of Waino W. Niemi:

1. Steven J. b. June 22, 1953.
2. Wayne D. b. July 6, 1954.

NIINIMAKI

EINO E. NIINIMAKI b. July 1, 1921, in Fitchburg; s. of Antti E. and Ida M. (Salonen) Niinimaki; m. November 27, 1948, Aune L. Keskinen. (*See Keskinen.*) He is a veteran of WW II. First they made their home with her parents, operating a chicken farm until 1956, when they moved to Connecticut. They returned to Westminster in 1958, purchasing the house on Elliott Street formerly owned by Joseph Story. He is in the insurance business. Mrs. Niinimaki is a registered nurse.

Children:

1. Glenn E. b. July 1, 1950.
2. Donna L. b. August 7, 1952.

NIKKI

J. TOIVO NIKKI b. November 28, 1904, in Finland; s. of Juho and Anna (Vakiparta) Nikki; m. December 17, 1921, A. Hilja Jalko, b. April 12, 1904, in Finland, dau. of Sam and Anna (Kuronen)

Jalko. They came to this country in 1923, and to Westminster in 1926. He works for Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

Children:

1. Urpo b. January 16, 1923, in Finland; m. Ruth M. Paakkari; 2 children.
2. Elaine A. b. March 16, 1924; m. Allan E. Waronen. (See Waronen.)

NIKUNEN

JACK NIKUNEN b. November 18, 1897, in Finland; s. of Fred and Anna Nikunen; m. March 1921 Elina Isoniemi b. February 8, 1895, in Finland, dau. of Andrew and Amanda Isoniemi. Mr. Nikunen served in the peacetime army in Finland for two years, 1919–1921. They came to this country after the birth of their first child, and to Westminster in 1934. Here they settled on the former Hobart Raymond farm, well known as the site of the first house in the town.

Children:

1. Viola N. b. July 1, 1922, in Finland; m. Waino Hakkinen. (See Hakkinen.)
2. Eila b. February 9, 1924 in Fitchburg; m. Donald Seppelin. (See Seppelin.)

NOBLE

T. FRASER NOBLE b. October 17, 1915, in Boston; s. of Fraser Pemberton and Estelle F. Noble; m. May 21, 1941, Marion Isobel Roper, dau. of J. Chester and Nettie E. (Harrington) Roper. (See Roper.) He was in the Air Force in WW II. He is a railway postal clerk. Mrs. Noble is a graduate of Boston University and taught in the Westminster schools before her marriage. They live on Pleasant Street.

Children:

1. Ann Curtis b. November 6, 1943, in San Benito, Texas.
2. Susan Jane b. April 27, 1946.

NOVAKOWSKI

TEDDY V. NOVAKOWSKI b. December 23, 1925, in Gardner; s. of Stanley and Stefania Novakowski; m. April 3, 1948, Nellie Foster, b. May 24, 1925, in Rumford, Maine, dau. of William M. and Neva N. (Taylor) Foster. He is a veteran of WW II, and a clerk in the Gardner Post Office. They came to Westminster in 1950 and live on Ellis Road.

Children:

1. Donna b. April 22, 1949, in Gardner.
2. Gary b. April 20, 1950.
3. Nan b. June 6, 1953.
4. Janice b. December 23, 1957.

NUTTING

GILBERT H. NUTTING b. August 13, 1919, in Gardner; s. of Elmer L. and Florence L. Nutting; m. October 20, 1945, Marion G. Parker, b. December 13, 1919, in Gardner, dau. of Charles A. and Helen G. (Pickett) Parker. He is a veteran of WW II. They came to Westminster in 1951 and live on Park Street, where they own their house.

Children:

1. Susan E. b. November 28, 1948, in Gardner.
2. Jane F. b. March 19, 1956, in Gardner.

NYE

ARTHUR W. NYE b. October 9, 1880, d. August 4, 1944, came to Westminster with his parents, Abram and Rebecca (DeWolf) Nye, when a small boy. His parents lived on a farm in South Westminster for the rest of their lives. He married Mildred Allen, b. August 9, 1882, d. June 4, 1949. They lived in the center of town, for several years on Academy Street where William MacAloney, Jr. now lives, and lastly over the general store (now Johnny's

Market), which they purchased from the Edgar Fenno estate. Mr. Nye served on the School Board for several terms.

Child:

Wendell A. b. March 26, 1912, d. September 1, 1944; graduate of Northeastern University in 1935; m. June 9, 1937, Madelyn Butler. He was killed in action in France in WW II.

Child of Wendell A. Nye:

Patricia Louise b. February 14, 1944.

OINONEN

KAINO W. OINONEN b. December 10, 1909, in Viitasaari, Finland; s. of John E. and Hilda M. (Pietikainen) Oinonen; m. October 8, 1937, Elvie A. Hanninen, b. November 20, 1914, in Fitchburg, dau. of John H. and Hilma T. (Tiehaara) Hanninen. They lived in Gardner until 1948, when they built their home on Ellis Road.

(Children forward)

WILHO OINONEN b. September 15, 1915, in Gardner, brother of Kaino; m. June 19, 1942, Vivian Hebert, b. August 7, 1919, in Troy, New Hampshire, dau. of Melvin S. and Mary Ann (Willis) Hebert. He is a veteran of WW II. They came to Westminster in 1948, and own their place on Colony Road. They have no children.

Children of Kaino W. Oinonen:

1. John W. b. July 7, 1942, in Gardner.
2. Christine C. b. August 15, 1947, in Gardner.

OJALA

JOHN OJALA b. September 8, 1890, in Sweden; s. of John Ojala; m. October 1913 Ida Kaariainen, b. May 12, 1887, in Finland. They came to this country in 1912, living in Fitchburg before coming to Westminster in 1920.

Children:

1. Vilho b. September 15, 1915, in Gardner; unmarried.

2. Thyra b. February 22, 1917, in Gardner; m. Gordon S. Longwhite; lives in East Princeton. No children.
 3. John, Jr. b. September 21, 1918, in Winchendon; m. February 8, 1941, Evi Wilen, b. February 9, 1921, in Fitchburg, dau. of Anselm and Alma (Seppala) Wilen. He is a veteran of WW II. They built their home on North Common Road in 1950, having lived before that time in East Princeton. He has served as Water Commissioner, and is employed at General Electric Company in Fitchburg.
- Children

1. Helen b. November 26, 1941; student at Boston University.
2. Edith b. December 27, 1946.
3. Jane b. January 7, 1955.

ONISCHUK

FRANK ONISCHUK b. November 3, 1919, in Gardner; s. of Andrew and Josephine (Stankiewicz) Onischuk; m. June 1, 1945, Betty June Latham, b. June 1, 1915, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, dau. of Eugene M. and Stacia (Brundin) Latham. He is a veteran of WW II. They came to Westminster in 1946, living in the Putney house on Main Street, which they purchased in 1951. He has served on the Planning Board, the High School Building Committee, and as chairman of the 200th Anniversary Committee; also as chairman of the Red Cross. He is a teacher at Saxton Trade School in Leominster.

Child:

- Steven J. b. January 9, 1948.

OWEN

RALPH O. OWEN b. June 5, 1911, in Watertown; s. of Leonard and Viola G. (Osgood) Owen; m. June 17, 1938, in Watertown, Sara C. Hatch, b. November 17, 1913, in Boston, dau. of Galen and Belle (Blanchard) Hatch. They came to Westminster in 1944

and lived in an apartment on Main Street until 1947, when they bought the property opposite the Town Hall (then owned by Mrs. Bertha Ahlin.) He has been a Water Commissioner and member of the Fire Department. He works for the Fitchburg Paper Company.

Children:

1. Sally G. b. March 1941 in Boston; m. James H. Moore; lives in Gardner; 2 children.
2. Patricia G. b. October 18, 1943, in Boston.
3. Donna L. b. November 17, 1947, in Gardner.

PAGE

CHARLES H. PAGE (18) b. 1847, d. June 6, 1933, came here from Westport, New York; m. Ann Maria Ryan (d. February 10, 1922).

Children:

1. Charles E. (19) b. June 5, 1875, d. January 22, 1949; m. (1) January 30, 1897, Mary Kronman (d. November 17, 1936); m. (2) Gertrude E. (Warren) Brigham (d. October 6, 1939). Mr. Page lived on his farm near the Princeton line.

(Children forward)

2. George E. (20) b. September 26, 1877, d. while young.
3. Hattie M. (21) b. July 24, 1880; m. (1) Frank A. Brown; m. (2) Walter King. Lives in Connecticut.
4. Frank J. (22) b. March 26, 1883; m. October 25, 1909, Maud Chipman, dau. of Eugene F. and Mary (Toomey) Chipman of East Templeton. They built a house on the Narrows Road, which they still occupy. Mr. Page worked for Crocker-Burbank, for many years.

(Children forward)

5. Lena M. (23) b. May 8, 1886; m. Charles I. Frye, Jr., of Fitchburg; lives in Fitchburg; 2 children.
6. Benjamin H. (24) b. November 12, 1888; veteran of WW I; lives in Princeton; unmarried.

Children of Charles E. Page (19):

1. Carl B. b. September 3, 1897; m. May 28, 1927, Pris-

cilla L. Surrey, b. December 12, 1904, dau. of Henry T. and Abbie L. (Harrington) Surrey. Mrs. Page was a telephone operator for many years. They live on Davis Road. He is a retired employee of the Department of Public Works.

(Children forward)

2. Albert Elwin b. January 20, 1901.
3. James Henry b. January 9, 1903; m. Virginia R. (Gage) Gauthier. He is employed by the Department of Public Works.
4. Edward Howard b. December 12, 1906; unmarried.
5. Lillian Harriet b. April 1, 1909; m. George Bragdon of East Princeton (d. January 30, 1949); 3 children.
6. John Joel b. November 15, 1910; m. Ethel G. Mitchell.

Children of Frank J. Page (22):

1. Rolley James b. July 23, 1910; m. September 15, 1934, Rachel M. Paradise; lives on Hanks Hill; papermaker in Fitchburg; no children.
2. Harold Franklyn b. June 2, 1916; m. (1) Virginia Marrone of Fitchburg, 1 child; m. (2) Guenn Polok; papermaker; lives in Worcester.
3. Adalaide Louise b. March 18, 1919; m. Reginald Skidmore of Fitchburg (d. February 15, 1956); lives in Fitchburg; 5 children.
4. Mary Ann b. May 27, 1922, d. March 18, 1929.
5. Charles Eugene b. September 30, 1928; m. January 5, 1952, Shirley W. (Newcombe) Malk, b. April 17, 1926, in Fitchburg, dau. of Alfred E. and Grace (Hervey) Newcombe. They built their house on South Ashburnham Road. He is employed by Advance Coatings Company.

(Children forward)

6. Marlene b. May 3, 1932; m. October 5, 1957, Raymond Mello; lives in Texas.

Children of Carl Page:

1. Frances M. b. August 18, 1928; m. Lewis Hayward. (*See Hayward.*)

2. Audrey L. b. February 18, 1930; m. Raymond Martel. (*See Martel.*)
3. Helen R. b. May 28, 1934; m. Neal Lesperance.

Children of Charles Eugene Page:

1. Judith A. (Malk) b. May 8, 1947, in Fitchburg.
2. Deborah L. b. October 10, 1956.

PAKKILA

ARMAS E. PAKKILA b. September 26, 1921, in Lanesville; s. of Alexander H. and Marie (Kultala) Pakkila; m. April 30, 1942, Irene E. Wiinikainen, b. October 22, 1919, in Gardner, dau. of Victor and Ida (Silverberg) Wiinikainen. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on Spruce Road. Mrs. Pakkila is a registered nurse.

Children:

1. Armas E., Jr. b. December 16, 1942, in Fitchburg.
2. Richard P. b. August 22, 1946.
3. Timothy V. b. September 28, 1952.

PARCHER

FRANK L. PARCHER (1) b. October 30, 1847, d. January 31, 1933; s. of John F. and Ada A. Parcher. Frank Parcher and his wife Mary E. (Geasling) lived in the house on Leominster Street now occupied by J. J. MacConologue. He worked at the Crocker-Burbank paper mill for many years. Mrs. Parcher died September 27, 1931.

Children:

1. Orrin E. (3) b. October 25, 1871, d. April 12, 1922; m. Mabel Gertrude Sands (d. December 6, 1937) of Saco, Maine. They came to Westminster and built a house on Leominster Street, now occupied by V. B. Whitney. He

worked as a cracker salesman for the Dawley and Sons Bakery. On July 9, 1925, Mrs. Parcher m. (2) Arthur C. Jewett of Robinhood, Maine, and moved to Fitchburg.

(Children forward)

2. Nellie M. (4) b. January 14, 1874, d. May 24, 1956; m. Ernest J. Sawin. (*See Sawin.*)
3. Fred G. (5) b. May 1, 1882; m. J. Mabel Perkins of New York City. He is retired and lives in Fitchburg.

(Children forward)

Children of Orrin E. Parcher:

1. Jessie Arlene b. May 19, 1895; m. Dellard J. Montville.
2. Bernice Evelyn b. May 9, 1907; m. Harlan E. Hooper; lives in Fitchburg; no children.
3. — b. and d. June 23, 1897.

Children of Fred G. Parcher:

1. Douglas Gardner b. July 28, 1907, d. March 29, 1931, in Fitchburg.
2. Myrtle Frances b. September 6, 1908; lives in Fitchburg.
3. Clifford Irving b. November 19, 1914; m. Gladys Boyle of Fitchburg; lives in Fitchburg.

PARMENTER

CARLTON G. PARMENTER b. June 6, 1912, in Hudson; s. of Henry W. and Angie H. (Macomber) Parmenter; m. May 22, 1937, Ethel L. Roche, b. May 21, 1911, in Boston, dau. of David E. and Louise M. (Chamberlain) Roche. He is a veteran of WW II. He works as a Motor Vehicle Inspector from the Fitchburg office of the Registry of Motor Vehicles. They came to Westminster in 1952, buying of Michael Suomala the house on Turnpike Road.

Children:

1. Louise A. b. December 25, 1939, in Marlboro, a student at Massachusetts College of Art.
2. Marguerite E. b. June 12, 1943.

PARNANEN

ANDREW PARNANEN b. May 21, 1880, in Viipuri, Finland; s. of Andrew and Mary (Juutilainen) Parnanen; m. November 28, 1914, in Brooklyn, New York, Katri Tuohimaa (d. November 22, 1948). He came to this country in 1914 and she in 1911. After living in Brooklyn, New York and in Higganum, Connecticut, they came to Westminster in 1925 and settled on the Friberg place on North Common Road. In 1949 he built a smaller house nearby on the Mossman Road, where he lives alone.

Children:

1. Pavo b. August 28, 1915, in Brooklyn, New York; m. June 28, 1941, Myrtle Shorkey, b. September 21, 1921, in Ashburnham, dau. of Peter and Emma (Plante) Shorkey. They live on Mossman Road near the home of his father. He works for the Fitchburg Engineering Corporation.

(Children forward)

2. Saara M. b. December 13, 1916, in Brooklyn, New York; m. Toivo Koski. (*See Koski.*)
3. Katherine b. December 19, 1918, in Higganum, Connecticut; m. Leo Jarkko; lives in Fitchburg; 5 children.
4. William b. April 16, 1923, in Higganum, Connecticut; m. September 25, 1948, Gertrude Kirkman, b. November 15, 1927, in Royalston, dau. of John and Lydia (Javenpaa) Kirkman. They own their house, which they built on North Common Road in 1950. He is a veteran of WW II.

(Children forward)

Children of Pavo Parnanen:

1. Marilyn b. April 20, 1942, in Ashburnham.
2. Carol } Twins b. October 25, 1944, in Fitchburg.
3. Karen }

Children of William Parnanen:

1. David A. b. March 17, 1953.
2. Ralph W. b. July 29, 1958.

PARTANEN

EINO A. PARTANEN b. March 1, 1914, in Monson, Maine; s. of William and Amanda (Kurkinen) Partanen; m. August 19, 1939, Ida Harjula, b. April 15, 1918, in So. Thomaston, Maine, dau. of Erick and Ida (Hall) Harjula. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on Ashburnham State Road.

Children:

1. William E. b. March 6, 1943, in Portland, Maine.
2. Eileen L. b. October 29, 1947, in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.

PETERSON

ONNI J. PETERSON b. May 18, 1910, in Cobalt, Ontario; s. of John and Hilma (Junka) Peterson; m. June 23, 1940, Bertha E. Flinkstrom, b. June 26, 1920, in Fitchburg, dau. of William and Selma (Aho) Flinkstrom. He is a veteran of WW II. They have lived on Ashburnham State Road since 1940.

Children:

1. Elaine B. b. December 27, 1948, in Ashby.
2. Robert A. b. August 30, 1951, in Fitchburg.

PHELPS

HERBERT L. PHELPS b. April 4, 1922, in Fitchburg; s. of George H. and Yvonne (Lessard) Phelps; m. October 20, 1943, Sylvia I. Sutela, b. April 22, 1925, in Fitchburg, dau. of Eino E., Sr. and Helmi A. (Lehtinen) Sutela. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on East Road.

Children:

1. Patricia A. b. September 23, 1946.
2. Sylvia S. b. September 13, 1947.
3. Herbert L., Jr. b. May 2, 1950.
4. Marcia L. b. July 1, 1952.
5. Wendy L. b. October 15, 1953.
6. Deborah J. b. March 16, 1955.

PIKKARAINEN

DANIEL PIKKARAINEN b. October 4, 1925, in Fitchburg, s. of Jaakko and Milja Pikkarainen; m. February 8, 1947, Constance Neithercut, b. September 13, 1924, in Fitchburg, dau. of Thomas and Cecilie Neithercut. They bought their place on Elliott Street in 1951.

Children:

1. David T. b. July 30, 1948, in Fitchburg.
2. Joan A. b. January 25, 1953.

POHJOSMAKI

URHO POHJOSMAKI b. in Fitchburg; s. of August and Alma (Suldan) Pohjosmaki; m. October 14, 1950, Helen Hamalainen, b. in Gardner, dau. of Robert and Ida Hamalainen. He works at the United Co-operative. She is a registered nurse, and a supervisor at Heywood Hospital. They came to Westminster in 1955 and own their place on Shady Avenue. No children.

POIKONEN

KAINO POIKONEN b. June 28, 1910, in Gardner; s. of Aati and Ida (Kuula) Poikonen; m. June 28, 1930, Linnea Krans, b. October 1, 1911, in Fitchburg, dau. of Ivar and Hilja (Nygord) Krans. They lived with her parents for a time; then in a house which they built on the site of the old schoolhouse at North Common; and lastly since 1949 in their present home, which was built on the site of the old Amboy Proctor house. Mr. Poikonen was a member of the Welfare Board for some years. Mrs. Poikonen served on the Ration Board during WW II and with the Red Cross.

Children:

1. Alan b. August 18, 1934; served in the United States Navy 1955-1957; m., lives in West Rindge; works at Foster Grant Company.
2. Karen b. February 5, 1943.

PROCTOR

AMBOY HARLEM PROCTOR (9) b. April 6, 1864, d. May 25, 1946; youngest child of Edmond (1) and Mary F. (Harris) Proctor. He never married, and he and his sister, Angia Holbrook Proctor (7), b. January 31, 1857, lived on the family homestead at North Common, where the house of Kaino Poikonen now stands. Mr. Proctor was a farmer, road agent, and an excellent plumber. With his long gray beard, he was a familiar sight driving to town in his buckboard. Miss Proctor died October 30, 1946.

PROGEN

GILBERT E. PROGEN b. in Gardner; s. of Eugene and Angeline (Lashua) Progen; m. September 3, 1945, Leah Walker, dau. of Albert and Ruth (Hurd) Walker. (See Walker.) They came to Westminster in 1953, when Mr. Progen became operator of the Sunoco Gas Station. They own the Albro house on Main Street.

Children:

1. Thomas A. b. May 6, 1947, in Fitchburg.
2. Janice L. b. January 5, 1949, in Fitchburg.
3. Katherine F. b. March 29, 1950, in Fitchburg.
4. Debra A. b. September 1, 1954.

PURANEN

TOIVO G. PURANEN b. August 2, 1906, in Gardner; s. of Victor and Amanda (Hamalainen) Puranen; m. November 9, 1935, Mildred G. Humphrey, b. April 22, 1910, dau. of Elmer G. and Inez W. (Gates) Humphrey. Mrs. Puranen was educated in the Westminster schools, moving to Gardner with her parents in 1929. Mr. Puranen is employed by Heywood Wakefield Company in Gardner. They came to Westminster in 1949, when they built their house on Ellis Road. They have no children.

RAITA

AARO H. RAITA b. March 15, 1894, in Finland; s. of Aaro and Katri (Jarvelainen) Ruotralainen; m. September 3, 1929, Hellen M. Virtonen, b. March 12, 1892, in Finland, dau. of Frans and Maria (Juvanar) Virtonen. He came to this country in 1913, living in Fitchburg before coming to Westminster in 1930. Mrs. Raita has one child by a previous marriage: Aili M. (Carlson) b. June 8, 1918; m. Toivo Wilen. (*See Wilen.*)

RAY

ANSON RAY (19) b. August 8, 1810, d. July 25, 1895; s. of Heman and Rachel (Laws) Ray. He and his wife Emily (Jackson) Ray (d. 1883); lived on the farm of his father on Beech Hill.

Children:

1. Nancy (26) b. February 18, 1837 (deceased); m. Joseph Seaver.
2. Mary (27) b. August 8, 1839 (deceased); m. Alonzo Russell; lived in Gardner.
3. Hiram (28) b. April 3, 1845, d. July 17, 1926, lived on the ancestral farm which had been in the Ray family since it was purchased from the original grant in the Naragansett #2 Township. Only three houses have been built on this property: the first a log cabin; the second outgrown and moved away; the third, now standing, since 1915 the property of the Gardner State Hospital. Mr. Ray was a stonecutter; also a farmer who specialized in maple syrup. Mrs. Ray died November 30, 1914; in 1915 he purchased the house on Academy Hill Road now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Mabel Fenno.

(Children forward)

4. Helen (29) b. April 3, 1845, d. October 4, 1932; m. Eugene Gates. (*See Gates.*)
5. Edwin (30) b. May 11, 1847, d. February 25, 1938; m. Etta Murdock; lived in Gardner.

Children of Hiram Ray:

1. William P. (31) b. April 14, 1875, d. October 25, 1957; m. July 5, 1904, Harriet Alberta Gray of Leominster. Moved to Leominster; 4 children. A civil engineer, he designed bridges in that city and laid out Doyle Field.
2. Fred J. (32) b. December 6, 1877, d. June 5, 1944; m. January 3, 1900, Mabel C. Merriam (d. January 20, 1958); 1 son, Herman Edgar, b. in Westminster May 28, 1911; removed to South Gardner.
3. Mabel L. (33) b. April 26, 1888; m. Thaddeus B. Fenno (*See Fenno.*)

RAYMOND

The Raymond family came here in the early 1760's and settled near the railroad crossing on the Fitchburg State Road. It was a large and influential family, perhaps best remembered as owning the property now called "The Old Mill."

HOBART RAYMOND (63) b. September 25, 1846, d. October 11, 1933; s. of Solon and Roxa (Allen) Raymond; m. December 18, 1873, Laura A. Ball (d. November 5, 1927), dau. of Densmore and Elmina (Shepard) Ball of Boylston. They lived on the estate owned by his father at the foot of Meeting House Pond, now the Jack Nikunen place. The ell of this house was the first dwelling in town and the date 1737 may still be seen on the foundation stone in the cellar. By occupation he was both a farmer and undertaker, conducting most of the funerals in town for a number of years. All his life he retained his deep and active interest in public affairs. He was the last surviving member of the local G.A.R. Post.

Children:

1. Carl Allen (67) b. September 19, 1876; m. Abbie B. Nichols. (*See Nichols.*) He lives in Melrose; has been Mayor of that city and is interested in politics; veteran of War of 1898; also has been Director of the State Budget; 3 children.
2. Cyril B. (68) b. January 8, 1887; graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute; m. Ethel B. Handforth of Greenfield;

lives in Greenfield; veteran of WW I; later became chief of the State Highway Department's Greenfield Office; 2 children.

RAYMOND

CLIFFORD A. RAYMOND (49) (d. February 22, 1924); m. September 12, 1889, Martha Antoinette Pinkham (d. April 24, 1931), dau. of Capt. Paul and Martha (Adams) Pinkham of Maine. After living for a time in Boston, in 1903 they came to Westminster and settled on his father's farm, now the home of Ralph S. Foster, Jr. He served as selectman for seven years.

Child:

1. Emory Jonathan b. January 7, 1894, d. March 25, 1957; m. February 6, 1922, Nellie L. Martin, dau. of Edgar Thayer and Judith Ann (Withington) Martin of Gardner. They have always lived on Main Street. He became the Rural Mail Carrier in 1936, at which time he resigned three town offices: Chief of Police, member of the Board of Public Welfare, and member of the Board of Assessors. He was a veteran of WW I. He was also an active member of the Fire Department. The family continues to live on Main Street.

Children:

1. Lewis Martin b. February 17, 1922, d. March 4, 1923.
2. Eleanor b. December 29, 1923; a secretary with Simplex Time Recorder Company of Gardner.
3. Eldredge Milton b. August 21, 1926; a veteran of WW II; lives in Huntington Park, California, where he is a mail carrier.
4. Emory Allison b. August 3, 1932; veteran of Korean conflict; member of Fire Department; State Fire Warden; unmarried.

RAYMOND

ELI W. RAYMOND b. December 31, 1824, d. March 4, 1914, in Lowell; s. of Asa and Hannah (Peabody) Raymond; m. Harriet E. Brown (d. June 26, 1912).

Child:

Fred P. b. October 12, 1858, d. December 19, 1899; m. Emma E. Fisher; 1 child.

REED

EARL L. REED b. October 18, 1923; s. of Leslie L. and Faye (Hurd) Reed; m. January 11, 1943, Philomena M. Piermarochi, b. April 25, 1922, in Fitchburg, dau. of Louis and Iginia (Frat-tari) Piermarochi. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on South Shore Road.

Children:

1. Judith A. b. August 12, 1943, in Ayer.
2. Carrol F. b. April 5, 1948.

RHOADES

GUY A. RHOADES b. July 30, 1914, in Topsfield, Maine; s. of Prentiss and Lina (Kneeland) Rhoades; m. April 11, 1936, Dorothy H. Hunnewell, b. July 17, 1916, in Topsfield, Maine, dau. of Howard and Cora (Scribner) Hunnewell. They came to Westminster in 1952, living in several places in town before buying one on Carter Road in 1957. Mr. Rhoades is employed by Simplex Time Recorder Company of Gardner.

Children:

1. Ardeen b. March 24, 1937, in Calais, Maine; a graduate of Worcester Memorial Hospital; m. Philip Burgess of Athol; 1 child.
2. Gloria b. May 6, 1943.

RICE

JOEL R. RICE (39) b. December 20, 1823, d. January 22, 1895; s. of Aaron and Susan (Davis) Rice of Princeton; m. Mary H. Whitney (d. December 14, 1918) dau. of George (49) and Dolly (Jackson) Whitney, and settled in Wachusettville.

Children:

1. Ellen (40) b. December 28, 1859 (deceased); m. George H. Clegg; lived in Fitchburg.
2. Frank M. (41) b. May 26, 1862, d. February 24, 1940; m. Della A. Eaton (d. January 8, 1937). They lived in Westminster for a short time and then removed to Gardner.

(Children forward)

3. Mary A. (42) b. March 25, 1865; m. Frank W. Derby. (See Derby.)
4. Freddie (43) b. February 20, 1870. Died in infancy.
5. George C. (44) b. October 12, 1872. Died in infancy.
6. Edward J. (45) b. October 2, 1875, d. November 22, 1941; m. June 28, 1905, Florence C. Black, b. April 10, 1881, in Danvers, dau. of Henry Johnson and Abbie (White) Black. They made their home just outside the village on the State Road to Gardner, where Mrs. Rice still lives. He followed several occupations, including those of streetcar conductor, clerk at the Brick Store, and chair-factory worker in Gardner. He and Mrs. Rice were members of the Westminster Historical Society, Mrs. Rice as first president when the Society was reactivated in 1952. Mrs. Rice was employed in a Gardner bank for thirty-two years; she was Town Accountant from 1924, when the accounting system was installed in town, until 1937, when she became Tax Collector and her husband became Town Accountant. Mrs. Rice also served on the Building Committee of the present Congregational Church, built 1941-1942. She was given a testimonial banquet April 10, 1956, by a large gathering of her friends and co-workers on the occasion of her seventy-fifth birthday. There are no children.
7. Louis D. (46) b. September 13, 1878, d. July 22, 1945; m. November 25, 1909, Nettie Mossman. (See Mossman.) They removed to Wollaston, where Mrs. Rice now lives.

(Children forward)

8. Sherman (47) b. May 15, 1881; m. October 22, 1912, Viola M. Houghton, b. April 4, 1891, in Gardner, dau. of Clinton and May (Herbert) Houghton. He built his

present house on the corner of Main and Brooks Avenue.
He is a salesman.

(Child forward)

Children of Frank M. Rice:

1. Bertha (48) b. May 9, 1889 (deceased); m. Sherman Peabody; 1 child.
2. George Beaman b. February 11, 1893, d. August 1944; m. Isa L. Rowe; 1 child.

Children of Louis D. Rice:

1. Richard Edmond b. June 8, 1913; m. May 17, 1941, Marjorie Bently; lives in Arlington; 3 children.
2. Marian Louise b. August 16, 1918, lives in Wollaston; unmarried.

Child of Sherman Rice:

Celia May b. October 20, 1913, graduate of Wheaton College; m. (1) October 14, 1944, Wilder W. Strong of Gloversville, New York, 1 son, John M. Strong, b. July 18, 1945; m. (2) October 22, 1958, Richard F. Gruen of Ledgwood, New Jersey.

RICE

FRED F. RICE (55) b. November 11, 1856, d. October 8, 1940; s. of Charles and Catherine (Brown) Rice, came here from Pepperell. His wife Carrie M. (Chadwick) died February 6, 1937.

(Children forward)

WILLIAM S. RICE (59) (brother of above) b. 1857, d. July 23, 1938, in San Francisco, California; m. December 10, 1879, Jennie L. Lynde (41). He went to California about 1900 and worked for the Santa Fe Railroad for thirty years.

(Child forward)

Children of Fred F. Rice:

1. May E. (57) b. May 7, 1884; m. Stanley G. Joslin of Southbridge; lives in Southbridge; 4 children.
2. Sadie B. (58) b. March 28, 1887; m. (1) Arthur K. Rice; (2) Herbert P. Jacques of Worcester; (3) Harry B. Johnson of Pittsfield; lives in Lenox.

3. Charles Frederick b. January 5, 1893, d. July 18, 1925; m. Leah Walker; lived in Worcester; 1 child.
4. Ethel b. May 22, 1895, d. January 28, 1953; unmarried.
5. Rena b. September 11, 1897; m. Henry H. Miller; lives in Manchester, Connecticut; 3 children.

Child of William S. Rice:

1. Arthur Kendall (60) b. June 25, 1886; m. (1) June 25, 1915, Sadie B. Rice. (*See above.*) He is a veteran of WW I. On September 18, 1920, he m. (2) Irene F. Lynch, b. April 21, 1892, in East Jaffrey, New Hampshire, dau. of Fred W. and Sarah Jane (Fairbanks) Lynch, of East Jaffrey. They lived in Fitchburg until 1934, when they purchased the Ernest Mansur place on Pleasant Street, where they now live. Mr. Rice worked for Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg, for forty-four years. He retired in 1952. He served on the Ration Board in WW II, and on the Board of Library Trustees.

Children of Arthur K. Rice:

1. Nancy K. b. November 11, 1925, in Peterborough, New Hampshire; a registered nurse; m. September 26, 1948, Hector St. John of Bristol, Connecticut. Since 1953 she and her two children have made their home with her parents. She is employed at the Gardner State Hospital. Her children, both born in Bristol: Roberta M., b. September 13, 1950; Gordon A., b. September 27, 1952.
2. Cynthia F. b. March 31, 1929, d. March 31, 1929, in Fitchburg.

RINGQUIST

CARL W. RINGQUIST b. September 11, 1896, in Fitchburg; s. of Otto and Olive (Ramgren) Ringquist; m. April 20, 1922, Alma Anderson, b. January 5, 1898, in Worcester, dau. of Anthon and Clara (Johnson) Anderson. He is a veteran of WW I, and is employed as an electrician by Crocker-Burbank. They lived in Fitchburg for a number of years, coming to Westminster in 1955, when they built their home on South Ashburnham Road.

Children:

1. Carl W., Jr. b. March 8, 1923, in Fitchburg; m. Esther Leavenworth. (*See Leavenworth.*) They live in Perkinsville, Vermont; 6 children. Veteran of WW II.
2. James E. b. July 16, 1924, in Fitchburg; m. September 18, 1946, Constance M. Eskola, b. August 9, 1926, in Manchester, New Hampshire, dau. of Arthur J. and Delia M. (Nolan) Eskola. He is a veteran of WW II and is employed by the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company. They came to Westminster in 1956, when they bought their home on Marshall Hill Road.

(Children forward)

3. Richard H. b. April 14, 1927, in Fitchburg; m. Marilyn Shaaf; lives in Portland, Oregon; 2 children.
4. Gordon K. b. April 27, 1930, in Fitchburg; m. Joane Van Geldor; lives in Perkinsville, Vermont; 6 children.

Children of James E. Ringquist:

1. James E., Jr. b. June 9, 1947, in Fitchburg.
2. Robert P. b. April 17, 1956, in Fitchburg.

RIVERS

GEORGE RIVERS b. March 5, 1904, in Bristol, England; s. of Philip and Clara J. (Tarrant) Rivers; m. June 25, 1936, Olive J. Coombs. (*See Coombs.*) He is a veteran of WW II, and is employed by Chair City Beef Company. Mrs. Rivers has served on the Welfare Board. They live with her mother on Nichols Street.

Children:

1. Joyce Diane b. May 1, 1937; a student of music at Lowell Teachers' College.
2. David G. b. September 17, 1944.

ROPER

JOHN P. ROPER b. November 10, 1836, d. July 8, 1919; s. of John and Lucy (Bond) Roper; m. Ann (Curtis) (d. April 10,

1922); lived on the Murdock Farm near the Depot. Mr. Roper was elected Assessor in 1892.

Children:

1. John C. b. September 10, 1870, d. November 1, 1914; m. May 20, 1903, Nettie E. Harrington. (*See Harrington.*) John Roper conducted a milk route in Fitchburg with his brother, he made a home in South Westminster on the Axel Tuomi place. After his death his widow and children went to live with her parents on Pleasant Street. She d. May 25, 1945.

(Children forward)

2. Edward W. b. December 11, 1873, d. December 18, 1936, suddenly while on a vacation in California; m. September 8, 1903, Eva M. Grant, dau. of Herbert E. and Lillian C. (Streeter) Grant of Fitchburg. They lived on the family farm and made it prosperous. His sons joined him and have used the most progressive methods. Like his father, he was a diligent and frugal farmer, an upright and an honorable citizen. His wife continues to live on his farm with their two younger sons.

(Children forward)

3. Susan I. b. October 21, 1877, d. January 11, 1902; unmarried; attended Fitchburg Normal School.

Children of John C. Roper:

1. Marion Isobel b. September 3, 1910; graduated Boston University; m. T. Fraser Noble. (*See Noble.*)
2. Harriet Ann b. February 19, 1914; graduated Massachusetts State College; m. Leslie C. Kimball; lives in Pelham; 2 children.

Children of Edward W. Roper:

1. Ralph Edward b. July 20, 1904; m. June 23, 1928, Evelyn W. Hicks, b. April 6, 1909, dau. of Lewis M. and Carrie E. (Willis) Hicks of Hawley (sister of Arthur C.; *see Hicks*). They occupy a new house built on the Roper estate and he has continued to farm the Roper acres. Like his grandfather and father, he is diligent and thrifty. He has served the town on both the Finance Board and the School Committee.

(Child forward)

2. Harold John b. October 25, 1908; m. June 22, 1946, Phyllis C. Farwell, b. September 18, 1913, in Fitchburg, dau. of Harry E. and Mabel E. (Clegg) Farwell. He is a veteran of WW II, associated with his brothers on the farm.

(Children forward)

3. Clarence Grant b. March 29, 1912; m. August 7, 1933, Priscilla L. Clark, b. December 2, 1913, in Fitchburg, dau. of Leon I. and Violet O. (Weare) Clark. He too is an industrious farmer.

(Children forward)

Child of Ralph Edward Roper:

1. Ann Curtis b. June 5, 1933; m. Robert E. Honkonen. (*See Honkonen.*)

Children of Harold John Roper:

1. Lynne Curtis b. March 10, 1949.
2. Stephen John b. June 10, 1950.

Children of Clarence Grant Roper:

1. Claudia May b. June 24, 1937; m. John F. Jalo. (*See Jalo.*)
2. Nancy Clark b. October 24, 1940.

ROWE

CHESTER S. ROWE b. April 13, 1899, in Leominster; s. of Wallace B. and Harriet C. (Heald) Rowe of Sterling; m. August 20, 1917, Myrtle Stone. (*See Stone.*) (She died March 18, 1941.) He came with his parents to live in the Narrows and when he married purchased the house next to his parents' home. He has always worked at Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg, where he is superintendent of one of the mills.

Children:

1. Evelyn Miriam b. September 2, 1918; m. (1) Albert Nelson; divorced; m. (2) Henry Cooley.
2. Jean b. April 24, 1928; m. Philip Jean. (*See Jean.*)

ROY

HENRY S. ROY b. May 18, 1914, in Gardner, s. of Jude and Marie (Cormier) Roy; m. August 28, 1948, Marie E. Miethe, b. May 4, 1915, in Boston, dau. of Bernard F. and Bertha (Ochs) Miethe. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on South Street.

Children:

1. Jane M. b. November 12, 1952, in Boston.
2. Thomas J. b. June 18, 1954, in Worcester.

RUKAS

FRANK W. RUKAS b. December 30, 1915, in Fitchburg; s. of Michael and Lucy (Mokianeze) Rukas; m. June 29, 1946, S. Eloise Olson, b. April 24, 1915, in Gardner, dau. of N. John and Selma C. (Anderson) Olson. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on West Princeton Road.

Children:

1. Barbara E. b. December 16, 1949.
2. John F. } Triplets b. June 24, 1952.
3. Jane C. }
4. Joan C. }

RUUSKA

EDWIN M. RUUSKA b. February 10, 1912, in Fitchburg; s. of Henry and Aino (Lehtinen) Ruuska; m. July 18, 1937, Lempi Kauppi, b. December 8, 1911, in Marlboro, New Hampshire, dau. of Fred and Anna (Kunerri) Kauppi. They built their home on East Road in 1940, coming here to live at that time. Mr. Ruuska has served on the School Board, School Building Committee, as Library Trustee, and Sealer of Weights and Measures. He is a member of the Historical Society committee compiling the Town History. He is employed by the Norton Company in Worcester.

Children:

1. Marilyn E. b. August 22, 1942.
2. Edwin M., Jr. b. June 18, 1946.

UNO W. RUUSKA, brother of the above, b. February 10, 1914, in Fitchburg; m. October 24, 1941, Aino A. Anttila, b. August 5, 1918, in Fitchburg, dau. of Isaac and Hilda (Harju) Anttila. He served in the United States Navy from 1932-1953. They purchased from Isaac Anttila on October 4, 1950, the Isaac Seaver house on Davis Road, built 1845, and have since made their home there. Mr. Ruuska is a member of the Westminster Police Force. No children.

SAARI

GEORGE W. SAARI b. November 14, 1927, in Fitchburg; s. of Matthew and Margaret (Dobson) Saari; m. February 19, 1949, Shirley Souza, b. September 1, 1929, in New Bedford, dau. of Julio and Gladys (Perry) Souza. He is a veteran of WW II. They came to Westminster in 1951; built their home on East Road.

Child:

Debra L. b. September 16, 1951, in Fitchburg.

SAKKINEN

CHARLES SAKKINEN b. March 15, 1873, d. May 15, 1942; m. Anna Kinnunen (b. November 28, 1879, d. June 13, 1938). Both Mr. and Mrs. Sakkinen were born in Finland. He came with his wife and family from Maine to Westminster in 1919. He was a dairy farmer and lived on lower Bacon Street, where his son William Herman now lives.

Children:

1. John A. b. September 21, 1898, in Michigan, d. December 1, 1943; unmarried; veteran of WW II.
2. Mary W. b. April 3, 1900, in Michigan, d. October 18, 1946; m. William Kultti.
3. Howard C. b. July 21, 1901, in Michigan; m. May 18, 1935, Edna R. Newton.
4. Peter A. b. February 22, 1903, in Michigan, d. May 13, 1949, in Livermore Falls, Maine; m. Aili Luoma.

(Children forward)

5. Eli b. November 25, 1905, in Michigan, d. 1955 in Fitchburg; m. November 26, 1936, Lillian Nikkila of Fitchburg.
6. A. Ilene b. May 15, 1907 in Michigan, d. December 16, 1928; unmarried.
7. Jennie L. b. January 9, 1909, in Michigan (deceased).
8. Linda B. b. May 6, 1910, in Coburntown, Michigan; m. Elmer E. Luoma. (*See Luoma.*)
9. Sallie b. July 9, 1912, in Michigan; m. February 8, 1936, Rudolph Kamila; lives in West Los Angeles, California.
10. Urho E. b. December 4, 1914, in Bridgton, Maine; d. August 1944 in action in France in WW II.
11. Waino b. March 4, 1917, in Bridgton, Maine; m. (1) Viola Joki (deceased); m. (2) — Teto; 1 daughter.
12. W. Herman b. May 16, 1919; m. December 21, 1946, Helen A. Nikkila, b. February 11, 1912, in Fitchburg, dau. of Koski and Jenny (Ahola) Nikkila. He is a veteran of WW II; lives on the place formerly owned by his father on Bacon Street; is employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

(Children forward)

13. Helmi b. and d. 1921.
14. Lyyli E. b. May 22, 1922, d. August 19, 1923.
15. Sylvi b. and d. 1924.

Children of Peter A. Sakkinen:

1. Peter E. b. April 15, 1941.
2. David Allen b. December 18, 1943.

Children of W. Herman Sakkinen:

1. Andrew C. b. October 10, 1949.
2. William U. b. August 12, 1951.

SALO

EINO N. SALO b. October 28, 1917, in Worcester; s. of Mrs. Elli Salo and the late Nestor Salo (Koski). He and his mother came to Westminster after the death of his father in 1929. They make their home on Shady Avenue. Mr. Salo is a bachelor; a mem-

ber of the Board of Assessors; a member of the Police Force; substitute mail carrier; a member of the Town's 200th Anniversary Committee. He was a member of the 1943 Water Survey.

SALO

LENNARD C. SALO b. August 12, 1918, in Fitchburg; s. of Charles and Stava (Orava) Salo; m. June 17, 1944, Aino J. Keskinen. (See Keskinen.) They own their home on West Main Street, where Mr. Salo's mother, Mrs. Stava Salo, lives with them. He has served several terms as selectman. Mrs. Salo is a registered nurse.

Children:

1. Robert L. b. March 23, 1946.
2. Nancy J. b. June 2, 1947.
3. David H. b. February 17, 1957.

SARGENT

GEORGE A. SARGENT b. October 8, 1858, in Winchendon, d. December 29, 1943, s. of Aaron and Mary Ann (Wood) Sargent; m. January 27, 1885, Luella F. Gates (30), dau. of Eugene (25) and Helen (Ray) Gates of Westminster. (See Gates.) The Sargents moved to Westminster in 1893 and occupied a farm which is now a part of the Gardner State Hospital. He was engaged in farming until 1922, when he removed to the Hervey Miller place next to the First Congregational Church. He was tree warden for many years. (Mrs. Sargent d. March 1, 1942.)

Children:

1. Chester Eugene b. May 15, 1894; m. September 28, 1918, Gladys Hannaford, b. November 9, 1892, in Boston, dau. of William P. and Clara G. (Carter) Hannaford. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in Field Artillery, United States Army, in 1917; Retired Colonel of Artillery, United States Army, 1953. He served in WW I and WW II. (See Chap. 13.) Col. and Mrs. Sargent returned to Westminster in 1953 and occupy the house on Main Street

next to the First Congregational Church, formerly the home of Col. Sargent's father.

(Child forward)

2. Carl Aaron b. July 23, 1896; m. October 11, 1923, Beatrice Florence Moore of Leominster. He was attending the University of Maine when he enlisted in the United States Army in WW I. He was commissioned a lieutenant (flying status) in 1918, and thereafter served as an aviator. In 1922 he graduated from the university and entered the employ of Automobile Distributors of Boston, where he remained until he again enlisted in the Army in WW II. Since the war he has been in the insurance business; now lives in Newton.

(Child forward)

Child of Chester Eugene Sargent:

Chester Craig b. November 17, 1922, in Newton; m. October 28, 1948, Shirley Mills, dau. of Vice Admiral and Mrs. Earl Mills of New York City. He graduated from West Point, class of 1945; is a veteran of WW II and the Korean conflict. He is serving in the United States Army with the rank of Major (Armor).

(Child forward)

Child of Carl Aaron Sargent:

Kay b. April 12, 1932, in Boston; married and living in England.

Child of Chester Craig Sargent:

Douglas b. October 26, 1949.

SARGENT

JOHN A. SARGENT b. January 15, 1895, in Cambridge, d. January 8, 1954; s. of John W. C. and Martha (Newhall) Sargent; m. June 26, 1920, Katherine Foster, dau. of Judson and Katherine M. (Urban) Foster. (*See Foster.*) John Sargent was a veteran of WW I and a graduate of Harvard College. He was a very successful businessman, at one time connected with the insurance

firm of Roosevelt and Sargent of Boston. Mrs. Sargent is a graduate of Worcester Art Museum and maintains a home at Chestnut Hill, as well as on Academy Hill.

Child:

Ann b. May 19, 1926; a graduate of Briarcliff College and the Garland School; is a businesswoman in Boston.

SAVOLA

AARNE SAVOLA b. April 12, 1914, in Seattle, Washington; s. of Victor and Amanda (Pietila) Savola; m. October 19, 1935, Aune J. Ahola, b. November 30, 1914, in Fitchburg, dau. of John and Ida Ahola. He is a veteran of WW II. He came to Westminster in 1942. They make their home on South Ashburnham Road.

Child:

Sally Ann b. February 11, 1948.

SAWIN

The Sawin family came to Westminster from Worcester in the early 1760's, settling the south part of the town, from what is now Harrington Road to the Minott District.

JOHN F. SAWIN (101) was of the fifth generation to live here; b. December 5, 1857, d. March 26, 1935; s. of John (45) and Harriet (Hodgman) Sawin. He was divorced from Emma F. Sawtelle, his first wife, and on September 4, 1894 m. (2) Jennie (Lynde) Rice (d. May 25, 1936). He settled on his father's place at the corner of South Street and Harrington Road, and later removed to the present Daniel Campbell place on South Street, which he occupied for the rest of his life. He was a chairmaker for a time, and later became a conductor on the Gardner, Westminster and Fitchburg Street Railway.

Child:

Merton Leslie b. March 4, 1899; unmarried; an engraver; resides in Watertown.

OTIS W. SAWIN (122) was also of the fifth generation in town; b. October 22, 1839, d. November 17, 1911; s. of Luke (65) and Clarissa (Lane) Sawin; m. April 10, 1859 Mary E. Seaver (54) (d. July 20, 1932), dau. of Asahel and Tamer (Hill) Seaver. He was a veteran of the Civil War.

Children:

1. L. Ashton (136) b. March 28, 1860, d. May 6, 1895; m. Mabel F. Sawtelle (d. March 8, 1913). He was a farmer by occupation; was elected to the Board of Assessors.

(Child forward)

2. Ernest J. (137) b. July 2, 1872, d. May 3, 1947; m. April 17, 1895, Nellie M. Parcher (d. May 24, 1956), dau. of Frank L. and Mary E. (Geasling) Parcher. (See Parcher. He was a man of quiet ways and exemplary habits. For many years he worked for Crocker-Burbank of Fitchburg.

(Children forward)

Child of L. Ashton Sawin:

1. Alma E. b. June 5, 1886, d. March 14, 1914; a stenographer in Fitchburg; unmarried.

Children of Ernest J. Sawin:

1. Lois Merle b. November 16, 1898; m. Ralph W. Young. (See Young)
2. Dorcas Geneva b. June 17, 1906; m. John J. MacConologue. (See MacConologue.)

SCARALE

FRANK M. SCARALE b. October 15, 1915, in Leominster; s. of Michael and Mary (Cosenza) Scarale; m. March 1, 1941, Beverly M. Stone, b. December 2, 1923, in Gardner, dau. of George W. and Rose (Crossette) Stone. They came to Westminster in 1949. He opened Frank's Wayside Furniture Store on Route 2 in 1952.

Children:

1. Frank G. b. October 2, 1941, in Leominster.
2. Sherry L. b. November 26, 1957.

SCOFIELD

RAYMOND H. SCOFIELD b. December 12, 1908, in Wilton, Connecticut; s. of Samuel and Ada (Hoyt) Schofield; m. June 17, 1937, Marjorie N. Nadin, b. February 1, 1915, in Norwalk, Connecticut, dau. of Harold G. and Emma L. (Anderson) Nadin. The Scofields came to Westminster in 1952, buying the former house of Herbert Mansur, on Pleasant Street. Mr. Scofield is a sales manager for the Simplex Time Recorder Company of Gardner.

Children:

1. Raymond H., Jr. b. November 15, 1938, in Norwalk, Connecticut.
2. Richard N. b. August 20, 1943, in Norwalk, Connecticut.

SEAVER

HARRISON E. SEAVER (77) b. November 29, 1871, d. February 22, 1953; s. of Silas (58) and Ellen (Garfield) Seaver, was the last of a long line of Seavers (or "Severs" as it was first spelled) who have lived in Westminster since 1751. On November 22, 1893 Harrison Seaver married Roella E. Partridge (20), b. April 12, 1870, d. September 17, 1954, dau. of Henry J. (14) and Martha E. (Ellis) Partridge. Mrs. Seaver also was descended from a family who settled here before 1800. The Seavers first lived on Carter Road, but about 1899 they removed to the center of town to the house on Seaver Street now occupied by their daughter, Mrs. Stella Flagg. Mr. Seaver was a chairmaker, with a record of about twelve years in South Westminster and over forty years in a Gardner factory. Mr. and Mrs. Seaver celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1943.

Child:

Stella Martha b. August 23, 1896; m. Wallace Flagg; 2 children: Velma H. b. October 9, 1914, m. Herbert H. Innerasky (*See Innerasky*); Reta L. b. August 20, 1923, m. William J. Oltman, Jr. of Middle Village, Long Island, N. Y.

SEPPELIN

DONALD SEPPELIN b. April 18, 1918, in Gardner; s. of Leimo and Hilma (Biorkbakka) Seppelin; m. November 28, 1942, Eila Nikunen, dau. of Jack and Elina (Isoniemi) Nikunen. (See Nikunen.) He is a veteran of WW II. They own their house on Old Worcester Road. He is employed by Birtcher Electrical Medical Equipment of Boston and Los Angeles as a salesman.

Children:

1. Elaine b. August 23, 1944.
2. Evelyn b. July 9, 1948, in Albany, New York.

SHAY

WILLIAM A. SHAY b. April 14, 1893, in Gardner, d. March 27, 1948; s. of Timothy F. and Johanna (Butler) Shay; m. February 19, 1919, Altha M. Stowell, b. August 20, 1893, in Springfield, Vermont, dau. of William C. and Ada L. (Robinson) Stowell. Mr. and Mrs. Shay came to Westminster in 1924, when they bought from W. E. Putney the house on Nichols Street, second from the corner of Main Street. In 1945 they bought a small house on upper Nichols Street. Mr. Shay was Postmaster from 1939 until his death, when Mrs. Shay took over the office, which she fills with credit at the present time. She lives in an apartment on Main Street. He was a veteran of WW I.

SHEPARD

HERMAN A. SHEPARD b. April 12, 1877, d. August 7, 1946; s. of Dr. W. H. H. Shepard (1) and his first wife, Jennie E. Hill (3); m. (1) Geneva A. Reed of East Princeton, b. June 21, 1873, d. July 5, 1937; m. (2) August 22, 1940, Dr. Beatrice L. Perkins, b. March 1, 1899, in Mechanic Falls, Maine, dau. of Dr. Everett C. and Louise M. (Todd) Perkins. For many years Mr. Shepard was a partner in the Dawley and Shepard Cracker Bakery. His stepmother, Mrs. Jessie (Hill) Shepard, whose work in West-

minster schools is described in the chapter on schools, died in California in 1936. Dr. Beatrice Perkins-Shepard lives in the Shepard house on Bacon Street. At the time of her marriage to Mr. Shepard she was a practicing physician in Gardner, and has continued her work in the Henry Heywood Memorial Hospital there. During WW II she was the only physician in Westminster. From 1942 to 1956 she served as school physician, and from 1942 has been physician for the Board of Health.

SIPILA

ARVO SIPILA b. June 19, 1908, in Fitchburg; s. of Waino and Olga (Valkky) Sipila; m. April 21, 1934, Aino M. Mottonen, b. July 17, 1907, in Fitchburg, dau. of Oskari and Emma (Rasi) Mottonen. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on West Main Street.

Child:

Lauri M. b. June 6, 1937, in Winchester.

SKORKO

JOHN A. SKORKO (d. January 9, 1946). He and his wife Jadwiga (Branto) came to Westminster with their family in 1921. They lived on the Gardner State Road.

Children:

1. Benedict A. b. January 12, 1912, in Gardner; m. October 30, 1954, Helen S. Sanukewicz of Winchendon. He is a veteran of WW II.
2. Andrew P. b. November 11, 1913, in Gardner; m. August 22, 1942, Rose Chicoine of Manchester, New Hampshire. He is a veteran of WW II.
3. Charles S. b. December 12, 1916, in Gardner; m. September 15, 1951, Guinevere T. Dervis, b. November 10, 1922, in Gardner, dau. of Vincent and Philomena (Siwicki) Dervis. He is a veteran of WW II, and is employed by Heywood Wakefield Company of Gardner. They live on Gardner State Road. They have no children.

4. Josephine b. March 16, 1918, in Gardner; m. April 11, 1942, Charles Sier; lives in Texas.
5. Leontine b. January 6, 1920, in Gardner; m. Joseph LeClair. (*See LeClair.*)
6. Frank b. August 24, 1924; m. May 6, 1944, Jeannette LaPierre, b. October 7, 1922, in Gardner, dau. of Roy E. and Ella (Boseley) LaPierre. He is president of the S. & H. Transport Company and Andy's Wrecking Service. Mrs. Skorko's mother, Mrs. Ella LaPierre, lives with them.

(Children forward)

7. William J. b. January 22, 1927; m. August 12, 1950, Lorraine E. LeBlanc, b. November 12, 1929 in Gardner, dau. of Richard J. and Marie (Larcenaire) LeBlanc. They built their house on Leominster Street in 1956. He is employed by Andy's Wrecking Service.

(Child forward)

Children of Frank Skorko:

1. John E. b. April 14, 1945 in Gardner.
2. Jeanne L. b. March 23, 1958.

Child of William J. Skorko:

1. Steve G. b. February 25, 1952, in Gardner.

SLADE

FREDERICK J. SLADE b. January 30, 1905, in Fitchburg; s. of Frederick and Minnie (Booth) Slade; m. October 29, 1927, Dorothy B. Young (*See Young*). They built their present home on Elliott Street in 1930. He is a member of the Fire Department; is employed in Fitchburg. Mrs. Slade attended the New England Conservatory of Music. She has been organist in several churches in this locality and is a well-known teacher of piano. No children.

SMART

RALPH G. SMART b. April 29, 1895, in Nova Scotia; s. of Gordon C. and Louisa I. (Greer) Smart; m. September 12, 1924, Ida M.

Kelley, b. May 12, 1900 in Fitchburg, dau. of Alphonso and Mary E. (Cowen) Kelley. They lived in Fitchburg until 1948, when they bought of Arthur Bancroft the property known as Damon Hill Farm. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smart are veterans of WW I; Mr. Smart also of WW II, when Mrs. Smart served in the Civil Air Patrol. They maintain a profitable rabbitry and find time to interest themselves in civic affairs. No children.

SMITH

The name of Smith appears in town records as early as 1757, and from that time to the present there have been families of that name prominent in the affairs of the community. Some branches have entirely disappeared from the records, but a few remain and these we have tried to list, together with some new lines.

FRANK S. SMITH (34) b. March 9, 1879, d. November 2, 1957; s. of Sidney and Elvira (Smith) Smith; m. December 23, 1908, Florence Hastings (3) (d. August 6, 1951). They lived on South Street. He served on the Board of Assessors and other committees. They had no children.

G. GERTRUDE SMITH (36) b. September 9, 1889; dau. of Sidney and Elvira (Smith) Smith; unmarried; lives in Fitchburg.

HARRIET SMITH (47) b. May 25, 1829; dau. of Charles and Polly (Burgess) Smith; m. Amos Holden (*See* Holden).

CHARLES H. SMITH (107) (d. January 31, 1933); s. of Lorenzo and Betsey (Derby) Smith of Ashburnham; m. Myra A. Perkins (d. April 25, 1933) of Westminster. They lived in the Charles Hartwell house on the corner of South Street and Dawley Road. He was an auctioneer.

CHARLES L. SMITH b. December 16, 1878, s. of Leonard and Mary Lucy (Mansfield) Smith; m. (1) November 18, 1899, Mary W. Morse (16) (d. January 3, 1937), dau. of Farwell (2) and Hattie A. (Bigelow) Morse. They occupied the Carter place on the corner of Nichols Street and Smith Avenue. He m. (2) Blanche E. (Kindsman) Sargent of Hubbardston on October 20, 1938. They were divorced. He m. (3) October 31, 1959 Bertha A. (Cook) Ahlin. They make their home on Lovell Street. Mr.

Smith has been active in public affairs, serving on the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee and other important offices.

Children of Charles L. and Mary (Morse) Smith:

1. Harriet Mansfield b. June 28, 1902; m. Charles W. Albro. (See Albro.)
2. Barbara Morse b. March 7, 1905, d. May 23, 1917.
3. Mary Bigelow b. October 16, 1909; unmarried, a successful teacher in the Westminster School System.
4. Byron Chester b. May 11, 1913; m. April 1, 1939, Viola M. Stevenson, dau. of Edgar N. and Eva L. (Houston) Stevenson. (See Stevenson.) In 1939 he built a house on his father's land on Smith Avenue.

Children of Byron Smith:

1. Barbara L. b. February 10, 1940. Attends Becker Junior College, Worcester.
2. Charles L. b. February 16, 1941. Attends Worcester Junior College.
3. Wayne B. b. January 31, 1944; a student at Cushing Academy.

SMITH

ERNEST E. SMITH b. June 29, 1877, in Marlboro, New Hampshire, d. January 16, 1958; s. of George E. and Adeline (Chickering) Smith; m. December 8, 1902, Kate E. Parker, b. April 5, 1882, in Marlboro, New Hampshire, d. October 23, 1959, dau. of Frank and Ella (Thatcher) Parker. They lived in Westminster all their married life, making their home on the property at the head of Round Meadow Pond. Mr. Smith was a well-known produce dealer in Fitchburg and Westminster.

Children:

1. May E. b. October 2, 1903, d. March 2, 1906.
2. Ella M. b. August 9, 1905; m. Ellsworth L. Carpenter; lives in North Hartland, Vermont; 2 children.
3. Forrest E. b. December 21, 1906, d. September 9, 1945; m. Martena Prescott; 1 child.
4. Alice E. b. February 28, 1909; m. E. E. Wyeth; lives West Townsend; 4 children.

5. Kenneth F. }
6. Kendall E. } Twins b. February 28, 1911.

Kenneth d. March 23, 1941; Kendall m. (1) Blanche E. MacAloney; 2 children; m. (2) Thena Eaton; 3 children.

7. Paul F. b. July 8, 1912; m. June 20, 1937, M. Christine McAdams, b. February 9, 1918, in Hillsboro, New Hampshire, dau. of Leon H. and Maude A. (Hilliard) McAdams. They lived in several places in town before purchasing a home on upper Main Street. He was in business with his father until WW II; since then he has worked in Fitchburg for Dixie, Cowdrey Company.

(Children forward)

8. Dora A. b. September 5, 1915; m. George A. Ashton; lives in Fitchburg.
9. Katherine E. b. September 10, 1918; m. Raymond Williams; lives in Melrose; 2 children.
10. Muriel E. b. May 1, 1921, in Troy, New Hampshire, d. November 29, 1935.
11. June L. b. June 4, 1923; m. Herbert Schoales, Jr.; lives West Islip, Long Island, New York; 3 children.

Children of Paul F. Smith:

1. Paula K. b. February 27, 1938; registered nurse; studying at Boston University.
2. Bradley Hilliard b. June 20, 1941; in United States Navy Submarine Service.
3. Sherrill S. b. October 5, 1946.
4. Winston S. b. November 23, 1953.

SMITH

HOWARD I. SMITH b. July 9, 1901, in Fitchburg; s. of William and Georgieter (Palmer) Smith; m. March 18, 1931, Hilder A. Erickson, b. January 20, 1904 in Quincy, dau. of Andrew and Tekla (Johnson) Erickson. He is a veteran of WW I. They came to Westminster in 1938, building their present house on upper Nichols Street. He has served on the Town Finance Board. No children.

SNELLMAN

JALO T. SNELLMAN b. July 17, 1914, in Gardner; s. of Kaarlo and Fannie (Stenbeck) Snellman; m. July 3, 1937 Jean M. Balazy, b. August 9, 1915, in Gardner, dau. of John and Adela F. (Powichrowski) Balazy. They own their place on Lakefield Road, having come to Westminster in 1941.

Children:

1. Richard Karl b. July 22, 1938, in Gardner; in the armed forces.
2. David A. b. November 10, 1943, d. November 10, 1943.
3. Linda J. b. February 2, 1945, in Gardner.

SOINI

JOHN SOINI b. October 10, 1893, in Finland; s. of Victor and Mary (Hedman) Soini; m. March 8, 1952, Helmi L. Helala (Muhonen). (*See Muhonen.*) They make their home in a new house which he built on Bacon Street.

SPRAGUE

SAMUEL H. SPRAGUE (1) b. March 22, 1831 in Shirley, d. April 24, 1907; s. of Samuel and Love (Hazen) Sprague; m. Ann Maria Miles. (*See Miles.*) He was the half-brother of Sarah Wyman.

Children:

1. Love M. (2) m. Dr. Timothy Holden. She d. in May 1952 aged 96, leaving three sons.
2. Hattie S. (4) m. Robert H. Greely. (*See Greely.*) Resided in Spokane, Washington and d. there January 15, 1893.
3. Theodosia M. (5) m. G. Grant Whitman; d. December 4, 1933. Her husband d. August 23, 1942. No children.
4. Lydia Gertrude (6) unmarried; she was a schoolteacher; d. August 20, 1948.

STANBRIDGE

WILLIAM RUSSELL STANBRIDGE b. July 1, 1865, d. April 6, 1939; s. of Marcus and Annie (Needham) Russell Stanbridge; m. June 26, 1894, Edith C. Nichols (47) (d. October 13, 1918). (See Nichols.) They lived in the center of the village, where Miss Virginia Stanbridge now lives.

Children:

1. Virginia Sophia b. September 18, 1895, teacher; now retired.
2. Richard Francis b. July 1, 1900, d. December 15, 1952; m. December 3, 1921, Gladys E. Russell (d. September 6, 1947). He ran a garage for many years at the corner of Main and Nichols Streets; later sold his business and removed to Florida.

(Children forward)

3. George M. b. and d. May 6, 1903.

Children of Richard F. Stanbridge:

1. Edith R. b. July 3, 1922; m. Robert J. Mausert, Jr.; lives in Jacksonville, Florida; 4 children.
2. Marilyn L. b. September 19, 1923, d. September 1, 1925.
3. Janet A. b. August 18, 1930; m. Gerald G. Pope; lives in DeLand, Florida; 2 children.
4. Carol M. b. March 21, 1932; m. Harry Jones; lives in Jacksonville, Florida; 1 child.

STEVENSON

EDGAR N. STEVENSON b. January 30, 1887, in New Glasgow, Prince Edward Island, d. December 10, 1948; s. of James and Clara (Binns) Stevenson; m. September 11, 1910, Eva L. Houston, b. August 30, 1892 in New Glasgow, Prince Edward Island, dau. of George and Mary (Semple) Houston. He came to Westminster with his family in 1927 to operate the Fox Farm, which he did until 1939. He lived at the Farm until 1937, when he came into the

village and worked at the Cracker Bakery and as a janitor at Town Hall. Mrs. Stevenson and son, Lorne, live in the former Giles house on Main Street.

Children:

1. Ellsworth b. January 16, 1912, in P.E.I., lives in Manchester, New Hampshire; unmarried.
2. Viola M. b. September 26, 1914, in P.E.I.; m. Byron Smith. (*See Smith.*)
3. Roland C. b. December 13, 1916, in P.E.I., m. Hazel Beaton; lives in Greenwich, Connecticut; veteran of WW II; 1 child.
4. Hazel I. b. December 25, 1917, in P.E.I.; Wave, veteran of WW II; m. Commander W. B. Robertson USN; lives in Springfield, Virginia; 3 children.
5. Eleanor C. b. March 13, 1921, in P.E.I.; m. Mahlon Allen; lives in Fitchburg; no children.
6. Mary G. b. April 11, 1923, in P.E.I.; m. William Day; lives in Ashburnham; 4 children.
7. Lorne W. b. June 10, 1927, in P.E.I.; unmarried; veteran of the Korean conflict; at present janitor at the Town Hall.
8. Annie L. b. April 14, 1928, in P.E.I.; m. Thomas B. Crowe; lives in Shrewsbury; 2 children.
9. Constance L. b. March 10, 1932; m. Robert Foster; lives in Fitchburg; 3 children.

STILES

JOHN E. STILES b. April 26, 1888, in Gardner; s. of James A. and M. Lizzie (Emerson) Stiles; m. October 27, 1913, Louise Whittemore, b. May 1890, in Gardner, dau. of Francis S. and Lizzie S. (Wilbar) Whittemore. They lived in Gardner, where Mr. Stiles was Clerk of Courts for many years, also holding offices in the city government. He is a graduate of Harvard (1911), and a veteran of WW I. They came to Westminster in 1953, purchasing the house on Nichols Street built by Arthur Bancroft. Mr. Stiles retired in 1958.

Children:

1. John E., Jr. b. August 4, 1914; m. Gretchen Ames; lives in Worcester; 1 child.
2. David b. June 23, 1921; m. Muriel Holm; lives in West Boylston; 2 children.
3. Nathan b. February 8, 1924; m. Dorothy Vallette; lives in Ashburnham; 3 children.

STOCKWELL

GEORGE HENRY STOCKWELL (1) (d. July 25, 1924) and his wife Abigail E. (Bouche) Stockwell (d. September 20, 1930) lived about half a mile west of the center of the village, in what is now the Raymond Beers house.

Children:

1. George A. (2) b. June 3, 1870, d. April 17, 1943; unmarried.
2. William H. (3) b. January 1, 1872, d. December 5, 1956; m. March 18, 1895, Emma D. Cook (5), dau. of Rufus and Susan Cook. They lived in the Jonas Whitney house on Bacon Street. He was a veteran of the Spanish-American War and for over fifty years was a familiar figure as marshal of the Memorial Day parade. He was employed at the Cracker Bakery; he was also a loyal member of the Fire Department. He and Mrs. Stockwell celebrated their fiftieth and sixtieth wedding anniversaries; and at the sixtieth, March 18, 1955, their grandson, Raymond, Jr., attended, being three weeks old.
(Child forward)
3. Addie M. (4) b. December 21, 1875, d. February 6, 1909; m. Samuel Van Alstyne; 3 children.
4. Eva (5) b. April 4, 1878 (deceased); m. Charles Stockwell; lived in Worcester; 2 children.
5. Chester G. (6) b. October 22, 1881; unmarried.
6. Leon L. (7) b. October 14, 1883; m. Delia Carney; lives in Fitchburg; 3 children.
7. Earl C. (8) b. April 19, 1886, d. May 17, 1958; m. Mary C. Moran; 1 child.

8. Grace L. (9) b. February 12, 1889; unmarried; lives in Worcester.
9. Roy W. (10) b. March 29, 1893, d. August 11, 1935; veteran of WW I; unmarried.

Child of William H. Stockwell:

1. Raymond I. b. April 28, 1895; m. May 11, 1941, Ellen B. Cummings, b. July 19, 1913, in Brockton, dau. of Burr and Bertha (Totman) Cummings. He is a veteran of WW I; was employed by the Public Works Department and since his retirement in 1958 has served as Town Co-ordinator. They own their place on Knower Road, where since the death of Mr. Stockwell's father his mother has also made her home.

Children of Raymond I. Stockwell:

1. William B. b. June 16, 1943.
2. Raymond I., Jr., b. February 25, 1955.

STONE

ARTHUR L. STONE b. May 30, 1872, d. March 5, 1946; s. of Charles P. and Ella (Aldrich) Stone; m. May 21, 1896, Martha E. Mills (d. July 18, 1949); on that day settled in Westminster. For several years he was in the tintype business at Wachusett Lake. He was actively interested in town affairs, and served one term as Selectman. He lived on Eaton Street and was employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

Children:

1. Myrtle b. August 19, 1898; m. Chester Rowe. (*See Rowe.*)
2. Melvin W. b. September 7, 1904; m. October 4, 1925, Pearl Van Alstyne, b. May 10, 1907, dau. of Samuel and Addie (Stockwell) Van Alstyne. (*See Stockwell.*) The Stones lived for several years in a house owned by his father on Eaton Street, and in 1950 built a new one on Church Street. He is employed by General Electric Company of Fitchburg.

Children of Melvin W. Stone:

1. Melvin W., Jr. b. September 19, 1924; m. Gail L. Thatcher; lives in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.
2. Kenneth b. May 8, 1929; m. Pauline Tgebedes; lives in Dracut; 2 children; served in Germany 1951-1953.
3. Russell A. b. January 27, 1931; m. Elsie Harper; lives in Worcester; 1 daughter; served in Korea 1952-1954.

STORY

JOSEPH E. STORY b. May 17, 1859, in East Pepperell, d. October 7, 1944; s. of Solomon and Sarah (Shattuck) Story of Dunstable; m. May 28, 1884, Lucy L. Bridge (d. January 6, 1945), dau. of Samuel L. and Elizabeth (Sawin) Bridge. After six years in Dunstable, they moved to Westminster and located on the James Sawin place in the south part of town, now the home of Anselm Wilen. In 1916 they moved to Elliott Street where they occupied the George Lane place, now home of Eino Niinimaki. Mr. Story followed various occupations, particularly farming and cobbling. His shoe repair shop was in the upper story of the Post Office Building. Mrs. Story was a faithful member of the Historical Society.

Children:

1. Sarah b. November 16, 1892; m. Henry Moore; lives in Barre; 3 children.
2. Solomon Edwin b. June 21, 1895, d. August 7, 1954; m. October 19, 1921, Mabel Gleason, dau. of the Reverend Charles and Angeline (Snook) Gleason. Mr. Story was selectman for 1 term.
3. John Carroll b. June 27, 1899; unmarried; resides in Chicago, Illinois; veteran of WW II.

STOWELL

RAYMOND R. STOWELL b. November 27, 1899, in Albany, Vermont; s. of William C. and Ada (Robinson) Stowell; m. 1918,

Bertha I. Corse, b. May 22, 1898, in Wilmington, Vermont, dau. of Edwin I. and Hattie M. (Wheeler) Corse. They lived in Detroit, Michigan, and Gardner before coming to Westminister in 1953, when they built a house on West Main Street. Mr. Stowell is employed by Gem Crib and Cradle Company in Gardner.

Children:

1. Virginia L. b. December 19, 1918, in Detroit, Michigan; m. Francis R. Cone; lives in Cheshire; 4 children.
2. C. Lois b. November 28, 1922, in Gardner; m. Ralph H. Dudley; lives in Lincoln; 1 child.
3. Robert W. b. February 22, 1926, in Gardner; m. Joyce Fay; lives in Gardner; 3 children.
4. Melvin H. b. March 5, 1932, in Gardner; m. Dorothy Lovell; lives in Gardner; 4 children.

STREETER

DONALD I. STREETER b. June 23, 1925, in Brattleboro, Vermont; s. of Frank and Pearl (Whittier) Streeter; m. October 28, 1945, Winifred A. Parker, b. in Gardner, dau. of Harry A. and Alice (Piper) Parker. He is a veteran of WW II. They live on Worcester Road.

Children:

1. Alice M. b. December 9, 1946, in Turners Falls.
2. Donald M. b. November 17, 1956, in Fitchburg.
3. Beverly A. b. September 8, 1957.

SUND

JOHN ARVID SUND b. April 22, 1928, in Gardner; s. of Arvid and Anna (Soderholm) Sund; m. April 22, 1950, Marion Brooks, b. March 7, 1920, in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, dau. of Thomas and Olive (Abercrombie) Brooks. They live on Knower Road.

Children:

1. Jane L. b. December 10, 1951.
2. John A., Jr. b. February 16, 1953.

SUNNE

WALTER H. SUNNE b. October 22, 1899, in Fitchburg; s. of Olai and Valborg O. (Jensen) Sunne; m. May 29, 1922, Charlotte A. Anderson, b. April 22, 1899, in Fitchburg, dau. of Richard E. and Marie L. (Haake) Anderson. Mr. Sunne was employed in Fitchburg for many years and they lived there until 1938, when they bought the former Sydney Harrocks place at the foot of Wyman's Reservoir.

(Children forward)

OSCAR C. SUNNE b. July 12, 1904, in Fitchburg (brother of above); m. June 26, 1926, Edna L. Denton, b. September 24, 1906, in East Templeton, dau. of Carrol L. and Lizzie E. (Merriam) Denton. Mr. Sunne works for the Fitchburg Gas and Electric Company and lives in Baker's Grove.

(Child forward)

Children of Walter Sunne:

1. Walter H., Jr. b. February 21, 1923; m. Claire Belliveau; employed by Fitchburg Engineering Corporation; lives on the former Lizzie Baker place; veteran of WW II.
2. Kenneth A. b. December 30, 1928; graduate of Boston University, Vanderbilt Law School; veteran of Korean conflict; m. January 25, 1958, Una B. Redman; lives in Tampa, Florida; 1 child.

Child of Oscar Sunne:

1. Wayne A. b. June 3, 1927, in Fitchburg; veteran of WW II; unmarried; lives in Boston.

SWEDBERG

HERBERT R. SWEDBERG b. July 29, 1920, in Gardner; s. of Frederick and Annie (Nyman) Swedberg; m. 1942, Shirley A. Pervier, b. March 1, 1924 in East Templeton. Mr. Swedberg is a veteran of WW II. He is employed by Heald Machinery in Worcester. They came to Westminster in 1953, when they bought the former Minnie Dexter place on Leominster Street.

Children:

1. Randall L. b. August 30, 1946, in Gardner.
2. Brian H. b. February 1, 1948, in Gardner.
3. Dennis C. b. March 12, 1949, in Gardner.
4. Steven C. b. May 30, 1950, in Gardner.
5. Dale Russell b. February 5, 1952, in Gardner.
6. Karen A. b. October 16, 1956.
7. Kristine B. b. November 19, 1958.

TELLIER

RUSSELL T. TELLIER b. May 3, 1918, in New Haven, Connecticut; s. of Theodore and Mary (Ballou) Tellier; m. June 12, 1948, Phyliss M. Tuttle, b. June 1, 1921, in Nashua, New Hampshire, dau. of Ralph A. and Rachel B. (Hills) Tuttle. He served in the United States Navy from 1935-1939, and in WW II. He is now a salesman of pharmaceutical supplies. They own their home on East Road, having come to Westminster in 1952 after living in Fitchburg.

Children:

1. Susan M. b. September 17, 1950, in Leominster.
2. Denise A. b. August 8, 1951, in Fitchburg.
3. James R. b. December 14, 1953, in Fitchburg.

THOMAS

GEORGE THOMAS b. September 26, 1909, in Fitchburg; s. of William and Emma (Gosselin) Thomas; m. November 28, 1930, Beatrice B. Buckman, dau. of William and Delia (Barrett) Buckman. (*See* Buckman.) He is a veteran of WW II; has served on the Board of Registrars; is employed at the Gardner State Hospital. The Thomases own their house on Leominster Street, formerly the Leland place.

Child:

June I. b. June 11, 1931; m. August L. Erickson, Jr. (*See* Erickson.)

TIAINEN

IVAR TIAINEN b. October 10, 1889, in Finland. He came to this country in 1909, living in Fitchburg until 1933, when he built his home off Bacon Street. He is an expert paperhanger always in great demand, and is a veteran of WW I. He has never married.

TKACZYK

ANTHONY TKACZYK b. April 14, 1915, in Gardner; s. of Walter and Lena (Ptasienski) Tkaczyk; m. 1936 Irma Chipman, b. June 16, 1917, in Gardner, dau. of Grover and Grace (Weir) Chipman. Mr. Tkaczyk is a veteran of WW II. He and his wife lived in Gardner until 1946, when they bought the house on the corner of Nichols Street and Ripley Road, built by the late Nelson S. Greely.

Children:

1. Jeanne b. December 30, 1942, in Gardner.
2. Susan b. February 20, 1948, in Gardner.

TORPPA

OTTO O. TORPPA b. September 19, 1910, in Gardner; s. of John O. and Hilja G. (Palojarvi) Torppa; m. August, 1953, Theresa V. Kuivila, b. December 5, 1909, in Worcester, dau. of August and Lydia (Oman) Kuivila. Mr. Torppa is employed in Gardner and is a veteran of WW II. His wife is a trustee of the Westminster Public Library and teaches in Worcester. They built their house on Howard Avenue in 1953. No children.

TOWLE

MONROE WHITNEY TOWLE b. December 10, 1867, d. March 1, 1948; s. of John W. and Mary S. (Philbrick) Towle of Canaan, New Hampshire. He came to Westminster with his parents when

a young man; m. February 14, 1894, Alice Ethelyn Dawley (d. September 24, 1944). (See Dawley.) They lived in the Thomas Eaton place at the junction of Main and West Main Streets.

Children:

1. Laurence Clayton b. September 18, 1897; m. October 20, 1923, Gertrude M. Desmore, b. April 4, 1898 in Dexter, New York, dau. of Michael J. and Grace M. (Enos) Desmore. They lived in Worcester and New York State before coming to Westminster in 1944 to live with his father. Mrs. Grace Desmore makes her home with her daughter. Mr. Towle is a graduate of Clark College.

(Children forward)

2. Charles Dawley b. February 21, 1900, d. April 26, 1940; m. February 20, 1926, Gladys N. Brothers, b. June 17, 1902, in Hinesburg, Vermont, dau. of Medford E. and Chelonida M. (Clark) Brothers. He was a veteran of WW I. He worked for the railroad, and later in the Cracker Bakery. He purchased the Cyrus Miller place on Bacon Street, where Mrs. Towle still makes her home. Mrs. Towle has been a teacher in the Westminster School System since 1925.

(Child forward)

3. Emma Dale b. February 21, 1900, d. August 21, 1900.

Children of Laurence Clayton Towle:

1. Laurence C., Jr. b. July 3, 1924, in Worcester, m. M. Emma Thompson; lives in Winchendon; 3 children. He is a veteran of WW II.
2. Windsor P. b. October 28, 1928, in Worcester; m. August 26, 1950, Ruth Strom, b. July 24, 1929 in New York, dau. of Harold and Helmi (Walkkinen) Strom. He is a veteran of the Korean conflict and a member of the School Board. They live on Carter Road, where they own their place.

(Children forward)

3. Kenwood D. b. March 8, 1930, in Rome, New York; unmarried.

Child of Charles Dawley Towle:

Marilyn B. b. August 3, 1927; a registered nurse; employed at Massachusetts General Hospital as a private surgical nurse.

Children of Windsor Towle:

1. Mark b. February 15, 1953.
2. Dianne b. November 8, 1954.

TOWLE

EPHRAIM W. TOWLE b. July 28, 1867, d. May 9, 1921; m. August 30, 1893, Cora F. Holden (79), d. June 12, 1943. (*See Holden.*) They lived for a few years in Templeton and Hubbardston, but returned to Westminster in the early 1900's. He was for some time an engineer at the Power Station.

Children:

1. Harold Allen b. June 8, 1894; m. (1) June 25, 1921, Marion P. Walker (d. June 12, 1948), dau. of William and Mary (Abbott) Walker of Cabot, Vermont. Before her marriage she taught in the Westminster School System. He served in WW I; a fireman; was elected repeatedly to the office of constable. They lived on Nichols Street, in the house now owned by Angelo Buffone. He m. (2) August 21, 1949, Bertha Aline (Hodgkins) Barker of Keene, New Hampshire. They live in Baldwinville.
(*Children forward*)
2. Harley Holden b. June 29, 1895, in Templeton; d. April 7, 1955; m. Hazel M. Furbush (d. November 15, 1956) of Leominster; 3 children.
3. Lila May b. October 12, 1896, in Hubbardston; m. Harry E. Withington. (*See Withington.*)
4. Donald Edmund b. May 21, 1910, d. September 10, 1959; m. (1) Linnea Adamson (d. 1935) of Gardner; 1 child, Barbara May, b. September 10, 1930; m. (2) May 31, 1946, Hattie E. Temple (Hamlett) of Athol. He was a veteran of WW II.

Children of Harold and Marion Towle:

1. Mary Frances b. November 11, 1922; m. George Belair; 3 children; lives in Conway, New Hampshire.
2. Harold Allan, Jr. b. February 4, 1924; veteran of WW II; m.; lives in Royalston; 2 children.
3. Warren Walker b. August 13, 1925; veteran of WW II; m.; lives in California; 3 children.
4. Calvin Holden b. August 8, 1926; veteran of WW II; m.; lives in California; 2 children.
5. Chester Walker b. July 26, 1927; veteran of WW II; m.; lives in California; 2 children.
6. Robert William b. November 25, 1929; in Korean conflict; m.; lives in California; 2 children.
7. Annette Jane b. July 17, 1931; m. July 1, 1950, John F. Erickson of Gardner; lives in Gardner; 2 children.
8. Joan Evelyn b. April 17, 1935; m.; lives in California; 3 children.

TUOMI

AXEL R. TUOMI b. February 22, 1895, in Aura, Finland; s. of John and Hanna (Holpi) Tuomi; m. (1) March 4, 1918, Ida E. Ilves, b. April 10, 1897, in Sortavala, Finland, d. May 17, 1953; dau. of John and Anna Ilves. He m. (2) June 4, 1955, Tyyne D. (Heikkila), b. March 15, 1909, dau. of Anton and Selma (Arkko) Tani. Mrs. Tuomi has a daughter by a previous marriage, Lois Marilyn Heikkila, b. May 1, 1943. Mr. Tuomi came to Westminster from Quincy in 1921. He settled on the former John C. Roper farm on Davis Road, where he has built up a successful poultry business.

Children:

1. Lempi Helena b. December 22, 1918, in Quincy; m. Wilho Aalto. (*See Aalto.*)
2. Lahja Irene b. December 14, 1923; m. Adolph Kamila. (*See Kamila.*)
3. Lili Tuulikki b. June 28, 1928, in Gardner; m. Walter Marble. (*See Marble.*)

TUOMINEN

TOIVO O. TUOMINEN b. March 12, 1916, in Fitchburg; s. of Tusti and Hanna (Tornroos) Tuominen; m. August 6, 1938, Helmi Hanson, b. October 13, 1916, in Mt. Iron, Minnesota, dau. of Hjalmer and Ida (Haapasalo) Hanson. They live on the former Charles Dawley place on South Street in South Westminster, where until recently Mr. Tuominen carried on a flourishing auto repair business. Since 1946 he has been our highly efficient and popular Chief of Police.

Child:

Wayne F. b. September 13, 1942.

TRAUB

MARVIN TRAUB b. March 24, 1928, in the Bronx, New York; s. of Abraham and Edna (Silverman) Traub; m. June 16, 1953, Marion Juskowitz, b. July 23, 1929, in Bellows Falls, Vermont, dau. of Simon and Yetta (Cohen) Juskowitz. He is a veteran of WW II, and a graduate mechanical engineer working in Worcester. They own the former Philip Loughlin house on Main Street, which they purchased in 1956. No children.

URBAN

J. G. FRANK URBAN d. December 8, 1934, in El Paso, Texas; his wife, Emma Elmina (Merriam), died January 11, 1934.

Children:

1. Gertrude A. b. October 1, 1885, d. January 2, 1957; a graduate of New England Conservatory; m. W. H. Allen of Georgia; no children. She taught music in Georgia State College for Women.
2. Grace E. b. August 22, 1887; a graduate of Sargent School; m. Harry A. Clark. (See Clark.)

VAIKNORAS

ALBERT J. VAIKNORAS b. March 1, 1918, in Lawrence; s. of John and Louise (Stauce) Vaiknoras; m. November 15, 1945, Milda M. Kantola, b. October 25, 1914, in Fitchburg, dau. of David and Luida (Taikkanen) Kantola. He is a veteran of WW II. They own a farm on Ashburnham Hill Road.

Child:

Linda L. b. June 4, 1947, in Fitchburg.

VAN HAZINGA

ANDREW VAN HAZINGA b. May 16, 1916, in Kenosha, Wisconsin; s. of John and Rose (VanBrugen) Van Hazinga; m. October 24, 1942, Amy Warttainen, b. November 20, 1919 in Hubbardston, dau. of Peter and Hilma (Maki) Warttainen. They own and operate a farm on Ashburnham State Road.

Children:

1. Virginia R. b. November 3, 1946.
2. Russell R. b. January 8, 1948.
3. Kenneth A. b. April 2, 1952.
4. George O. b. May 4, 1955.

VIEWEG

ERNEST M. VIEWEG b. January 12, 1888, Fitchburg, d. April 21, 1939; s. of Frederick W. and Selma Vieweg; m. (1) Lena E. Bolt of Fitchburg; m. (2) May 15, 1918, Anna E. Peeler, b. August 22, 1892, dau. of Durward A. and Bertha L. (Engel) Peeler. He owned and operated a large farm on Bean Porridge Hill Road. His second wife and two of their sons continue to live on the farm.

Child of Ernest and Lena Vieweg:

1. Ernest M. b. May 25, 1912, in Fitchburg; m. August 22, 1934, Elmi Pokela, b. October 7, 1912 in Fitchburg, dau. of Esari and Mari (Kranni) Pokela. They have lived in various places but returned to Westminster in 1957, mak-

ing their home on South Ashburnham Road. He is employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg.

(*Children forward*)

Children of Ernest and Anna Vieweg:

1. Herman C. b. May 1, 1920; m. July 1, 1940, Ardath Woolacott, b. August 22, 1922, in Fitchburg, dau. of Ralph and Ruth L. (Edwards) Woolacott. He is a veteran of WW II; also a member of the School Committee; works for New England Telephone and Telegraph Company. They make their home on Turnpike Road.

(*Children forward*)

2. Walter D. b. December 21, 1923; unmarried; lives at home.
3. Bertha S. b. September 24, 1929; m. Irving P. Hecker. (*See Hecker.*)
4. Frederick W. b. July 11, 1932; unmarried; lives at home.

Children of Ernest M. Vieweg:

1. Carol A. b. March 15, 1936, in Fitchburg.
2. Judith E. b. February 20, 1942, in Fitchburg.
3. Martin K. } b. May 2, 1944, in Fitchburg.
4. Gordon L. }
5. Ernest M. b. July 18, 1952, in Leominster.

Children of Herman C. Vieweg:

1. Ruth A. b. December 2, 1942, in Fitchburg.
2. Richard b. March 11, 1944, d. June 5, 1944.
3. Bruce W. b. July 30, 1947.
4. Neil F. b. March 28, 1949.
5. Darlene b. May 25, 1952.
6. Bette Jane b. August 8, 1953.
7. Robin b. December 6, 1957.

VINCENT

HERMON A. VINCENT b. July 16, 1911; s. of Floyd and Edith (Plumb) Vincent; m. November 8, 1940, Mary E. Reilly, b. May 26, 1911, in Taunton, dau. of Patrick and Elizabeth (McTenan)

Reilly. He is a veteran of WW II. He owns and operates a chicken farm on Route 2.

Children:

1. Mary E. b. July 14, 1944, in Fitchburg.
2. Janice A. b. December 31, 1946, in Fitchburg.
3. Robert T. b. January 31, 1949, in Fitchburg.

VINE

HOMER R. VINE b. December 9, 1915, in Bradford, New York; s. of Raymond E. and Ruth (Bulkley) Vine; m. September 18, 1943, Edith A. Abar, b. January 21, 1916, in La Conner, Washington, dau. of the Reverend Edward J. and Mary E. (Knower) Abar. He is a veteran of WW II. After the war they settled in Westminster, on Main Street and later bought the house on Pleasant Street formerly owned by Miss Lillian McAllester. He is a chef at the Old Mill restaurant. Mrs. Vine is a graduate of Keuka College and is a teacher in the Westminster School System.

Children:

1. Raymond E. b. December 9, 1945.
2. Larry P. b. March 28, 1947.
3. Mary L. b. May 31, 1948.
4. Gregory S. b. July 23, 1955.

WAINONEN

EVERT WAINONEN b. October 19, 1879, in Finland, d. June 1, 1959; s. of Antil and Anna (Forssel) Wainonen; m. July 20, 1902, Olga Makela, b. September 11, 1883 in Finland, dau. of Matti and Mari (Palmgren) Makela. They came to Westminster in 1919, bought the Wiswell place on Bean Porridge Hill, and carried on the work of that large farm.

Children:

1. Siiri b. September 14, 1902, in Finland; m. Jacob Ojala.
2. Toivo b. September 20, 1909, in Finland; m. July 14, 1934, Aili Pera, b. August 19, 1911, in Fitchburg, dau. of Jacob and Mary (Westerback) Pera. He came to this

country with his parents. After his marriage he built a house on a part of his father's farm, and later took over the operation of the entire business. Mrs. Wainonen is a registered nurse.

Children of Toivo Wainonen:

1. Sandra b. November 12, 1940, in Fitchburg.
2. Sally b. May 3, 1945, in Fitchburg.

WALKER

ELMER WALKER b. November 11, 1856, d. July 6, 1946; m. Julia Annie Moulton (d. September 29, 1909). He came to Westminster from Gardner, in 1900. He lived on the Damon Hill Farm, now owned by Ralph Smart, for some years, later buying the Handel Holden place on Bacon Street, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was the Cemetery Commissioner for many years.

Children:

1. Albert b. 1887, d. October 6, 1946; m. June 20, 1911, Ruth L. Hurd. (*See Hurd.*) Mrs. Walker now lives in Fitchburg.

(Children forward)

2. Leah L. b. April 1, 1892 in Gardner; m. (1) Charles F. Rice (*See Rice*); m. (2) June 15, 1935, Lester P. Gerry of Worcester. They live in Westminster, in the house formerly owned by her father.

Children of Albert Walker:

1. Annie Ruth b. July 26, 1912; m. Clarence H. Sweetser of Medford; lives in South Hadley; 1 child.
2. Lois Alberta b. February 21, 1914; unmarried; lives in Gardner.
3. Leo Emerson b. August 22, 1916, in Gardner; m. July 19, 1947, Aira Seppala, b. December 25, 1921, dau. of J. Victor and Hilma A. (Maki) Seppala. He is a veteran of WW II. They lived in Fitchburg for a time, coming to Westminster in 1950. They make their home in Lakewood Park.

(Children forward)

4. Marion Dency b. April 30, 1919; m. Roger Sweetser of Malden; lives in Stoneham; 7 children.
5. Harry Hurd b. April 20, 1921; m. February 14, 1948, Jean Conrad, b. February 2, 1924, in Worcester, dau. of George and Lucy (Dryden) Conrad. He is a veteran of WW II. They lived for a time in Gardner, where he is employed by the Simplex Time Recorder Company, moving to Westminster in 1950 and buying a house on Ridge Street in 1955.

(Children forward)

6. Sidney Moulton b. June 12, 1923; m. July 4, 1947, Myrtle L. Mayo, b. March 15, 1925, in Hubbardston, dau. of Charles E. and Agnes T. (O'Donnell) Mayo. He is a veteran of WW II; he is employed by Crocker-Burbank in Fitchburg. After their marriage they lived in West Fitchburg; in 1950 they bought land on Battles Road and built their present house. Mrs. Walker is a registered nurse.

(Children forward)

7. Leah Joan b. December 22, 1925; m. Gilbert Progen. (See Progen.)
8. James Albert b. August 3, 1928; m. Caroline Gordon; 2 children.
9. Ruth Ellen b. September 6, 1932; m. Albert Cadrette.

Children of Leo E. Walker:

1. Linda J. b. June 25, 1948, in Fitchburg.
2. Gary V. b. November 30, 1949, in Fitchburg.
3. Gail A. b. February 10, 1951.
4. Robert S. b. December 2, 1953.
5. Lois L. b. March 24, 1955.

Children of Harry H. Walker:

1. Wendy L. b. October 10, 1949 in Gardner.
2. Wayne R. b. April 13, 1952.
3. David M. b. September 6, 1955.

Children of Sidney M. Walker:

1. James M. b. February 13, 1948, in Fitchburg.
2. Nancy R. b. April 9, 1949, in Fitchburg.

3. Barbara J. b. February 14, 1953.
4. Richard B. b. May 18, 1957.

WARONEN

ALLAN A. WARONEN b. June 19, 1921, in Fitchburg; s. of Alexander and Hilja (Elers) Waronen; m. December 8, 1943, Elaine A. Nikki, b. March 16, 1924, in Fitchburg, dau. of J. Toivo and A. Hilja (Jalko) Nikki. He is a veteran of WW II and is employed at Burbank Hospital. They live in the house with his mother on Bacon Street.

Children:

1. Allan E. b. May 9, 1949.
2. Bette A. b. December 10, 1952.

WATERHOUSE

WICKLIFFE HAYES WATERHOUSE b. April 13, 1857, in Roxbury, d. August 12, 1930; s. of Joseph and Lydia (Perkins) Waterhouse; m. Nellie Cook (d. July 18, 1916). He and his wife spent all their years on the John Ball place near Wachusett Park, now the home of Vaito Niemi. An enterprising dairy farmer, he was honored by his fellow townsmen with the office of Selectman and of Assessor. He also served this district in the State Legislature in 1910.

Children:

1. Marcus (3) b. November 18, 1880, d. January 28, 1936; unmarried.
2. Clara M. (4) b. August 6, 1883; m. Leon H. Eaton. (See Eaton.)
3. Bertha (5) b. July 1, 1888; m. Mervyn W. Sweet; 2 children; resides in Gardner.

WESTERFORS

ERICK A. WESTERFORS b. May 16, 1907, in Sweden; s. of Gustav and Alva (Johansson) Westerfors; m. January 31, 1931, Alice Erickson, b. August 8, 1912, in Sweden, dau. of Nils and Gertrude

(Anderson) Erickson. They came to this country before 1930 and lived for a time in Gardner, coming to Westminster in 1940. They lived for several years on Ellis Road and in 1957 bought their present place on Lovell Street. He is General Manager for Gardner Screw Corporation. He was chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners when the town water system was installed. No children.

WHITNEY

There were two distinct families of this name who settled in Westminster. The first settler was SAMUEL (1). He came about 1741; settled in the north part of town; and owned property from North Common across the Whitman River Valley and over Bean Porridge Hill. More than a dozen of our present citizens claim him as an ancestor, but only one family bears the Whitney name.

VIVIAN B. WHITNEY of the 5th generation, b. November 4, 1884, in Winchendon; s. of Henry S. and Clymena P. (Farrar) Whitney; m. June 4, 1913, Fanny H. Stevens, b. February 12, 1890, in Newport, Nova Scotia, dau. of George and Alice B. (Redden) Stevens. He was employed by the Post Office in Gardner for many years and they lived there until 1925 when they bought their present place on Leominster Street. He retired in 1946. He has served on the Board of Assessors.

Children:

1. Marjorie E. b. April 23, 1914, in Gardner; graduate of University of Massachusetts; m. Richard Thompson; lives in Amherst; 2 children.
2. Elsie M. b. February 28, 1917, in Gardner; graduate of New England Baptist Hospital; m. Philip L. Taylor; lives in West Springfield; 3 children.
3. Gordon B. b. January 18, 1921 in Gardner, d. December 15, 1956; graduate of Northeastern University; veteran of WW II; m. Sally Blythe; lived in Tenafly, New Jersey; 3 children.
4. Ethel B. b. June 22, 1924; graduate of University of Massachusetts; m. Ralph Sergo; lives in Bradley Beach, New Jersey; 3 children.

WHITNEY

The other Whitney was NATHAN (82), who came to town early in 1751. He and his descendants preferred the south side of town and settled near Wachusett Mountain, the original dwelling being the well-known "Whitney Homestead." Nathan is the ancestor of the following families:

STILLMAN WHITNEY (120) b. April 11, 1833, d. February 16, 1915; m. (3) October 13, 1891, Almira Clark (d. October 27, 1937).

CECIL WHITNEY (126) b. January 5, 1848, d. December 31, 1937 and his w. Eldora Gates (27) (d. November 7, 1897), lived in Fitchburg and in Westminster on the ancestral farm. He was a public-spirited man and held many town offices.

Child:

Stanley N. Whitney (142) b. April 28, 1881; unmarried.

LUELLA H. WHITNEY (127) b. April 23, 1853, d. March 18, 1936; m. Chester Canham; lived on the Whitney homestead.

LEON A. WHITNEY (137) b. April 29, 1864, d. May 24, 1947; s. of Augustine (116) and Mary A. (Titus) Whitney; m. Geneva Fradley (d. June 11, 1949) of Brooklyn, New York. They lived chiefly in New York, where he was engaged in the electrical contracting business. For many years they spent their summers at the family home on Main Street.

Children of Leon A. Whitney:

1. Leon F. b. March 29, 1894, in Brooklyn, New York; graduate of Massachusetts Agricultural College. He is the author of several books and magazine articles on animal husbandry. He received the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1940; m. Katherine Sackett of Brooklyn; lives in Orange, Connecticut; 2 children.
2. Joseph F. b. July 25, 1895; graduate of Massachusetts Agricultural College; m. Winifred Rush of Lexington, Kentucky; lives in Wilton, Connecticut; 2 children.
3. William A. b. September 9, 1897; d. in infancy.
4. Richard A. b. August 1, 1900; m. Mary F. Turner of

Georgetown, Kentucky; 2 children. Graduate of Massachusetts Agricultural College.

WIINIKAINEN

WAINO I. WIINIKAINEN b. October 24, 1911, in Gardner; s. of Isaac and Hilma (Puusaari) Wiinikainen; m. July 15, 1934, Hilda S. Aho, b. August 27, 1916, in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, dau. of The Rev. Emanuel P. and Hilda (Linna) Aho. They own their place on Overlook Road.

Children:

1. Richard A. b. June 9, 1936; a graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute; lives in California.
2. Marsha A. b. November 21, 1943.

WIKTORSKI

WARREN S. WIKTORSKI b. February 1, 1921, in Gardner; s. of Alexander and Victoria (Swiek) Wiktorski; m. February 26, 1944, Elaine Bevis, b. July 29, 1925, in Ware, dau. of Leon J. and Hazel (Cooley) Bevis. He is a veteran of WW II. They lived in several places in the village until 1958, when they bought of Moses Wasara his farm on Route 140.

Children:

1. Diane E. b. January 31, 1945.
2. Kirk D. b. November 14, 1951.
3. Lee W. b. September 6, 1957.

WILCOX

WALTER M. WILCOX b. March 29, 1911, in Revere; s. of Robert H. T. and Annie (MacLeod) Wilcox; m. Alvida Anderson, b. November 6, 1914, in Newport, Rhode Island, dau. of the Reverend August P. and Alvida P. (Holmgren) Anderson. They lived in Fitchburg and Gardner before coming to Westminster in 1950. They now own the former Harry Miller place on upper Main

Street. Mr. Wilcox has been much interested in school affairs since coming to town, having served on the School Committee, the School Building Committee, and the Regional School District Planning Committee. He is employed in Fitchburg by Simonds Saw and Steel Company.

Children:

1. Judith P. b. September 28, 1941, in Fitchburg; student at Fisher Junior College in Boston.
2. Jeffrey M. b. June 7, 1945, in Gardner.
3. Jennifer C. b. September 5, 1948, in Gardner.

WILEN

TOIVO A. WILEN b. December 1, 1916, in Fitchburg; s. of Anselm and Alma (Seppala) Wilen; m. November 2, 1946, Aili M. Carlson, b. June 8, 1918, in Fitchburg, dau. of Carl and Hellen M. (Wirtanen) Carlson. They are veterans of WW II and are both interested in civic affairs. Mr. Wilen is employed by General Electric Company in Fitchburg. Mrs. Wilen works in the office of the Gardner State Hospital. They built their house on Minott Road in 1956. Mrs. Wilen served as Treasurer of the 200th Anniversary Town Committee.

Child:

- Bill O. b. September 20, 1947.

WILLIAMS

JOHN L. WILLIAMS b. September 15, 1915, in Fitchburg; s. of Thomas and Lydia (Gray) Williams; m. October 12, 1939, Lillian Goguen, b. June 25, 1912 in Fitchburg, dau. of Louis and Mary (Melanson) Goguen. They live in the brick house in the Narrows, once the office of the Wyman Paper Company. Mrs. Williams' sister, Alvida Goguen, who makes her home with them was b. February 18, 1914, in Fitchburg; is a veteran of WW II, and is with the foreign service of the United States State Department. She returns home every two years.

Children:

1. Carol L. b. January 28, 1941, d. November 24, 1944.
2. John L. b. November 5, 1942.
3. Peter L. b. February 20, 1947.
4. Ann L. b. February 14, 1948.
5. Jane L. b. October 28, 1949.
6. Mary b. and d. October 19, 1950.

WILSON

ERNEST C. WILSON b. August 26, 1917, in Norwood, Mass.; s. of Victor and Olga (Karhi) Wilson; m. March 17, 1946, Anna M. Esposito, b. May 2, 1923, in Naples, Italy, dau. of Salvatore and Vicenza (Aversa) Esposito. He came to Westminster with his parents in 1919; his wife came to this country in 1946. He is a veteran of WW II. They make their home on Sargent Road.

Children:

1. S. Victor b. December 25, 1946, in Gardner.
2. Jane Ann b. March 9, 1949, in Gardner.
3. Diane Marie b. May 3, 1957, in Gardner.

HUGO V. WILSON b. June 4, 1916, in Norwood; s. of Victor and Olga (Karhi) Wilson; (brother of Ernest, *above*); m. November 1, 1942, Elvi E. Kantola, b. February 1, 1918, dau. of David and Linda (Toikkanen) Kantola. They live on Dean Hill Road. Their nephew, David Lauricella, lives with them. He is the son of Samuel and Mamie (Kantola) Lauricella, and was born in Montague January 15, 1943.

Children:

1. Vivian M. b. July 4, 1954, in Fitchburg.
2. Peter H. b. June 10, 1956, in Clinton.

WINTER

KUSTA WINTER (d. February 18, 1943) and his wife Hilma (Jamsa) Winter (d. October 21, 1942) came to Westminster in 1919 and bought the James Harrington place on Davis Road. He was a prosperous farmer.

Children:

1. Howard b. January 8, 1912, in Fitchburg; a veteran of WW II. He has served on the Board of Assessors, and as a member of the town's 200th Anniversary Committee. He is unmarried.
2. Eino W. b. May 27, 1914, in Fitchburg; m. July 26, 1938, Lillian M. Lundgren, b. October 11, 1920, in Iron Mountain, Minnesota, dau. of Jalmer and Tekla (Filander) Lundgren. They live on Davis Road and he works in Leominster. He served on the Board of Public Welfare. Mrs. Winter is Clerk of the Board of Assessors.

Children of Eino W. Winter:

1. Richard W. b. April 10, 1940, in Gardner, student at Worcester Junior College.
2. Alice F. b. June 12, 1942, in Gardner.
3. Duane W. b. April 17, 1944, in Fitchburg.

WISWELL

GEORGE F. WISWELL b. 1866 in Calais, Maine, d. July 30, 1949; s. of George H. and Mary (Cloudman) Wiswell. He came to Westminster with his parents in 1884. He m. December 21, 1890, Cora Caldwell, b. 1868 in St. Stephens, New Brunswick, Canada, d. August 16, 1927. They lived with his parents on the farm on Bean Porridge Hill Road until 1919, when they sold the property to Evert Wainonen (*See Wainonen*) and built their house on Ashburnham State Road, now owned and occupied by their son Walter. They were prosperous farmers.

Children:

1. George E. b. May 8, 1899; m. June 30, 1926, Gwendolyn E. Roberts, b. December 20, 1903, in Northfield, Vermont, dau. of Griffith and Grace E. (Cooper) Roberts. They lived in West Fitchburg for many years until they built a new house on Fenno Drive. He is employed by Crocker-Burbank.

(*Children forward*)

2. Walter E. b. May 13, 1901; m. March 23, 1934, Dorothy J. May (d. October 13, 1958) of Fitchburg. He lived with his father and carried on the farm. Since his father's death he has worked for Crocker-Burbank.
3. Mary Elizabeth b. December 7, 1906; m. Edward J. Brennan; 3 children; lives in Bridgehampton, Long Island, New York. She is a graduate of Fitchburg Normal School.

Children of George E. Wiswell:

1. George E., Jr. b. 1927 in Fitchburg; m. Alice Judge; lives in North Falmouth.
2. Elizabeth R. b. 1931 in Fitchburg; a registered nurse; m. Samuel Smyth; lives in Woburn; 2 children.

WITHINGTON

ARTHUR E. WITHINGTON b. December 4, 1890 in Hubbardston, s. of Ebenezer F. and Mary E. (Tenney) Withington. He is a veteran of WW I. He worked for many years at the Cracker Bakery, and later at the Brick Store in town. He is now retired, and lives on Dawley Street with his two sisters: Mrs. Sarah McGee (*See McGee*) and Ethel M. Withington (b. October 5, 1898 in Hubbardston, also unmarried). She is remembered by the older residents of the village as a most competent and obliging telephone operator before the dial system came in.

WITHINGTON

HARRY E. WITHINGTON b. November 13, 1893, in Princeton; s. of Ebenezer and Mary Withington; m. June 28, 1917, Lila M. Towle, dau. of Ephraim W. and Cora F. (Holden) Towle. (*See Towle.*) They have lived in several places in the village and now make their home on Leominster Street. He is a veteran of WW I; employed in Gardner.

Child:

Dorothy M. b. November 5, 1936, in Gardner; m. Roy Barrett. (*See Barrett.*)

WOODWARD

PAUL NELSON WOODWARD b. August 1, 1900; s. of Charles N. and Elizabeth C. Woodward of Princeton; m. July 25, 1925, Arlene E. Gilson, dau. of Louis B. and Gertrude E. (Pratt) Gilson. (See Gilson.) They lived first in Princeton and then came to Westminster. He is a veteran of WW I.

Children:

1. Jane b. April 20, 1926, in Princeton; m. Robert Mason (See Mason). She is a registered nurse.
2. David Bradley b. October 8, 1930, in Princeton.
3. Robert Lewis b. May 29, 1934, in Princeton; married; lives in Leominster.
4. Mary Lee b. September 1, 1935, in Princeton.
5. Jo Anne b. October 2, 1940; serving in Waves.
6. John b. December 21, 1944.

WYMAN

BENJAMIN WYMAN (6) b. August 13, 1802, d. October 22, 1894; s. of David and Hulda (Brown) Wyman; m. (3) Love Hazen (Sprague) of Shirley.

Children:

1. Mary Ann (15) b. August 18, 1844, d. May 4, 1894; unmarried.
2. Sarah Jane (16) b. September 15, 1848, d. March 8, 1935; unmarried. A schoolteacher, she lived in the Narrows for many years but later bought a lot from J. Hervey Miller near the First Congregational Church and built a house there. Like her father, she was an intelligent, active, public-spirited citizen. She was a member of the Universalist Church and the Westminster Historical Society. She was for many years a Trustee of the Westminster Public Library. She brought up her grand-nephew, Nelson Sprague Greely, from early childhood.

FRANKLIN WYMAN (9) b. January 20, 1808, d. August 12, 1893, in Worcester; brother of Benjamin.

ALFRED WYMAN (27) b. January 4, 1853, d. November 28, 1949; s. of Harrison and Jane Wyman; 3 children.

WYMAN

MURIEL B. WYMAN b. July 21, 1902, in Clinton, dau. of Albert and Bertha (Crossman) Beach; m. October 1, 1927, Charles Wyman. After the death of Mr. Wyman in 1949 she came to Westminster as companion-housekeeper for Dr. Beatrice Perkins.

Child:

1. William H. b. February 25, 1932, in Clinton; graduated Bates College 1953; m. Carolyn Snow; lives in Springfield; 2 children.

YOUNG

W. WESLEY YOUNG b. November 16, 1875, in Canada, d. March 2, 1950; s. of William and Clara (Dailey) Young; m. September 13, 1895, Minnie F. Shepard, b. December 19, 1878, in West Boylston, dau. of Jeremiah and Della M. (Newton) Shepard. He was associated with Fred Goodridge in the box shop at the foot of Bacon Street, and later with his son Ralph in the same business.

Children:

1. Ralph W. b. August 17, 1897, in West Boylston; m. October 5, 1918, Lois M. Sawin, dau. of Ernest J. and Nellie M. (Parcher) Sawin. (*See Sawin.*) He succeeded to the business of his father, and now owns and operates a large sawmill on Overlook Road. He is a long-time member of the Fire Department. He built his house on the corner of the State Road and Elliott Street.

(Children forward)

2. Gladys S. b. July 20, 1898; m. Harold L. Mann; lives in Huntington Park, California; 2 children.
3. Dorothy B. b. November 9, 1902; m. Frederick Slade. (*See Slade.*)
4. Willis L. b. July 28, 1912; m. Doris R. Colon.
5. Ester L. b. March 21, 1915; d. March 21, 1915.

Children of Ralph W. Young:

1. Phyllis F. b. December 30, 1919; m. George Henstridge. (*See Henstridge.*)
2. Eunice M. b. April 29, 1921; m. Frank A. Wiggins, Jr., lives in East Princeton; 2 children.
3. Ralph E. b. January 26, 1923; m. September 22, 1943, Eleanor Pratt, b. March 10, 1923, in Winchendon, dau. of Archie and Christie (Nolan) Pratt. He is a veteran of WW II. He is a member of the Fire Department; is associated with his father in business. He built his place on West Main Street in 1947.

(Children forward)

4. Harold W. b. October 27, 1925; m. Evelyn Bullock; associated with his brother.

Children of Ralph E. Young:

1. Linda F. b. December 15, 1944, in Boise, Idaho.
2. Cathy A. b. May 2, 1951.

INDEX TO PART I

NOTE: The foregoing index includes names appearing in the text of Part I, the narrative section of the History. The Genealogies (Part II) have not been indexed, as they are already in alphabetical order. Also not included here are the longer lists of names in Part I that appear in alphabetical or chronological order, such as the Honor Rolls, the list of clubs, "Important Dates" (Chapter 18), and the lists in the Appendix.

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